DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

It's up to BCCI to decide my future, says defiant coach Gambhir

Page 15

DKS reaches out to Satish Jarkiholi

Dy CM said to have sought Siddu loyalist's help in CM race

BENGALURU, DHNS

A late-night, closed-door meeting between rivals Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi has turned up the heat in the ongoing leadership tussle in the governing Congress.

Satish is a known loyalist of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Plus, Satish and Shivakumar have had political differences for a while now. Given this background, Satish's meeting with Shivakumar, who is seeking to replace Siddaramaiah, created much buzz in political circles.

Shivakumar clarified on Wednesday that his meeting with Satish was to discuss "political strategy and roadmap" to ensure Congress retained power in the 2028 Assembly election.

However, in the late Tuesday night meeting that spilled well into the early hours of Wednesday, Shivakumar sought Satish's support for his chief ministerial ambition, sources said. It is also said that Shivakumar offered to support the idea of Satish taking over from him as the Karnataka Congress president.

Satish is learnt to have hedged his support to Shivakumar by waiting for the Congress high command to decide on whether or not Siddaramaiah will continue. Until then, Satish said he would continue to back the incumbent Siddaramaiah, sources said.

Both of them agreed on the need to resolve their differences keeping the 2028 Assembly and 2029 Lok Sabha polls in mind, sources said.

On Wednesday, Satish had a luncheon with some Congress lawmakers, including Asif Sait (Belgaum Uttar), Prakash Koliwad (Ranebennur), J N Ganesh (Kampli), Vishwas Vaidya (Saundatti Yellamma) and Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan (Shiggaon).

Shivakumar played down his meeting with Satish. "What's wrong? He is my colleague and a senior party leader," he said.

▸ DKS, Page 6

> He is my colleague and a senior party leader. We want to protect all our MLAs
>
> **D K SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy chief minister

Kharge: Sonia, Rahul to decide

Amid leadership tussle in Karnataka, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said the issue will be resolved after discussions with senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.
Details on Page 6

Make Shivakumar CM, Vokkaliga pontiff tells Congress

BENGALURU, DHNS: The power tussle in the governing Congress took a new turn on Wednesday with influential Vokkaliga pontiff Nirmalanandanatha Swami publicly backing Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's chief ministerial ambition.

Nirmalanandanatha Swami heads the Adichunchanagiri Mutt, which is the most prominent and influential institution representing the 'dominant' Vokkaliga community. The Mutt enjoys cross-party political patronage.

"In the previous election, we (Vokkaligas) all voted (for Congress) hoping that one of our leaders (Shivakumar) would become the chief minister, but it did not happen then. According to what they said, we were optimistic that an opportunity would be provided after two-and-a-half years. However, it doesn't seem to be happening. If it doesn't happen, thousands of devotees are telling us that they will be in pain," Nirmalanandanatha Swami told reporters in Hassan.

The seer was referring to the alleged power-sharing agreement between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.

▸ Vokkaliga, Page 6
More reports, Page 6

Pocso case: Murugha Mutt seer acquitted

CHITRADURGA, DHNS

Murugha Mutt seer Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana was on Wednesday acquitted in one of the two Pocso cases filed against him.

Second Additional District and Civil Court judge Gangadhara Channabasappa Hadapad pronounced a one-line order stating that the seer and two others accused in the case have been acquitted.

On instructions from the Supreme Court, a prolonged hearing was held of two survivors, three accused and 14 witnesses. On November 18, public prosecutor H R Jagadish argued for the victims while C V Nagesh argued for the accused. The judge had reserved the order for Wednesday.

The seer, the manager of the mutt Paramashivaiah and warden Rashmi appeared before the court at 10 am. After adjourning the case till 2.45 pm, the judge pronounced the order at 3 pm.

Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana

Speaking on the judgment, counsel for the seer, K B K Swamy, told reporters that the court found the seer and two others innocent in the first case. "I thank all those who stood by the seer during hard times. Let us carry on the good work." The seer left for Virakta Mutt in Davangere after the verdict.

The high court has stayed the trial of the second case.

▸ Seer, Page 6

Pak slammed for Ayodhya event remark

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Wednesday strongly trashed Pakistan's criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisting a saffron flag at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and said the neighbouring country, with a "deeply strained" record of "bigotry" and "repression" of minorities, has no moral standing to lecture others.

"...Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others. Rather than delivering hypocritical homilies, Pakistan would do better to turn its gaze inwards and focus on its own abysmal human rights record," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Modi hoisted the 'Dharma Dhwaj' atop the Ram temple on Tuesday marking completion of its construction.

Details on Page 7

Rare earth magnet manufacture to get Rs 7,280-cr push

Rs 750-cr subsidy for producing 6,000 tonnes a year

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Wednesday announced a Rs 7,280-crore incentive scheme to boost domestic manufacturing of rare earth magnets, which are used in several industries including electric vehicles, aerospace, electronics, medical devices and defence.

Out of the total outlay, Rs 6,450 crore will be spent on providing sales-linked incentives on rare earth permanent magnet for five years.

The scheme also includes a capital subsidy of Rs 750 crore for setting up an aggregate of 6,000 tonnes per annum of rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing facilities, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The total duration of the scheme will be seven years from the date of award of contract, including a two-year gestation period for setting up an integrated rare earth permanent magnets (REPM) manufacturing facility, and five years for incentive disbursement on the sale of REPM.

The scheme envisions allocating the total capacity to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process. Each beneficiary will be allotted up to 1,200 metric tonnes per annum of capacity.

At present, almost all of India's REPM needs are met through imports, China being the main source. Despite possessing the world's fifth largest rare earth reserves, India contributes barely 1% to global production. China enjoys near monopoly accounting for nearly 90% of the global refined magnet production.

This makes global manufacturing vulnerable to China's dominant supply chain.

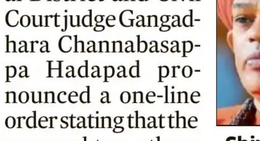
▸ Rare earth, Page 6

CHINA'S DOMINANCE

- Rare earth magnets used in industries including electric vehicles, aerospace, electronics, medical devices, defence
- Almost all of India's rare earth magnet needs met through imports, China being the main source
- Despite possessing world's fifth largest rare earth reserves, India contributes barely 1% to global production
- China enjoys near monopoly accounting for nearly 90% of the global refined magnet production

STATE OF STATIONS

Bengaluru's railway stations shape a visitor's first impression of the city. With nearly 3 dozen stations, including 4 junctions, how do the busiest ones measure up? What do passengers experience when they transit through them? In this series, starting today, we explore the good, the bad and the ugly of the city's iconic train hubs.



KSR Bengaluru station juggles between high footfall, safety worries
P2

Stocks up on US rate cut hopes

MUMBAI, PTI: Snapping the three-day falling streak, benchmark Sensex rebounded by 1,022 points while Nifty reclaimed the 26,000 level on Wednesday on across-the-board buying amid growing hopes of a US Fed rate cut and fresh foreign fund inflows.

Details on Page 13

Ahmedabad to host 2030 Commonwealth Games

GLASGOW, PTI: Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games here on Wednesday, paving the way for the multi-sport event's return to India after two decades and giving impetus to the country's audacious plan of becoming an Olympic host in 2036.

Commonwealth Sport's general assembly of 74 members put a seal of approval on India's bid after Ahmedabad was recommended as the proposed host of the centenary edition by its Executive Board last month.

India last hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010 in Delhi.

The Executive Board's recommendation followed a process of bid examination.

Details on Page 16

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Pro Visitor, REVA University
will grace the occasion
Justice Shivaraj. V. Patil
Former Justice, Supreme Court of India
will be the Chief Guest and deliver the Convocation Address
Dr. P. Shyama Raju
Chancellor,
REVA University
REVA University, Rukmini Knowledge Park, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560064
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Quickly

HC bars KSCA candidate list announcement

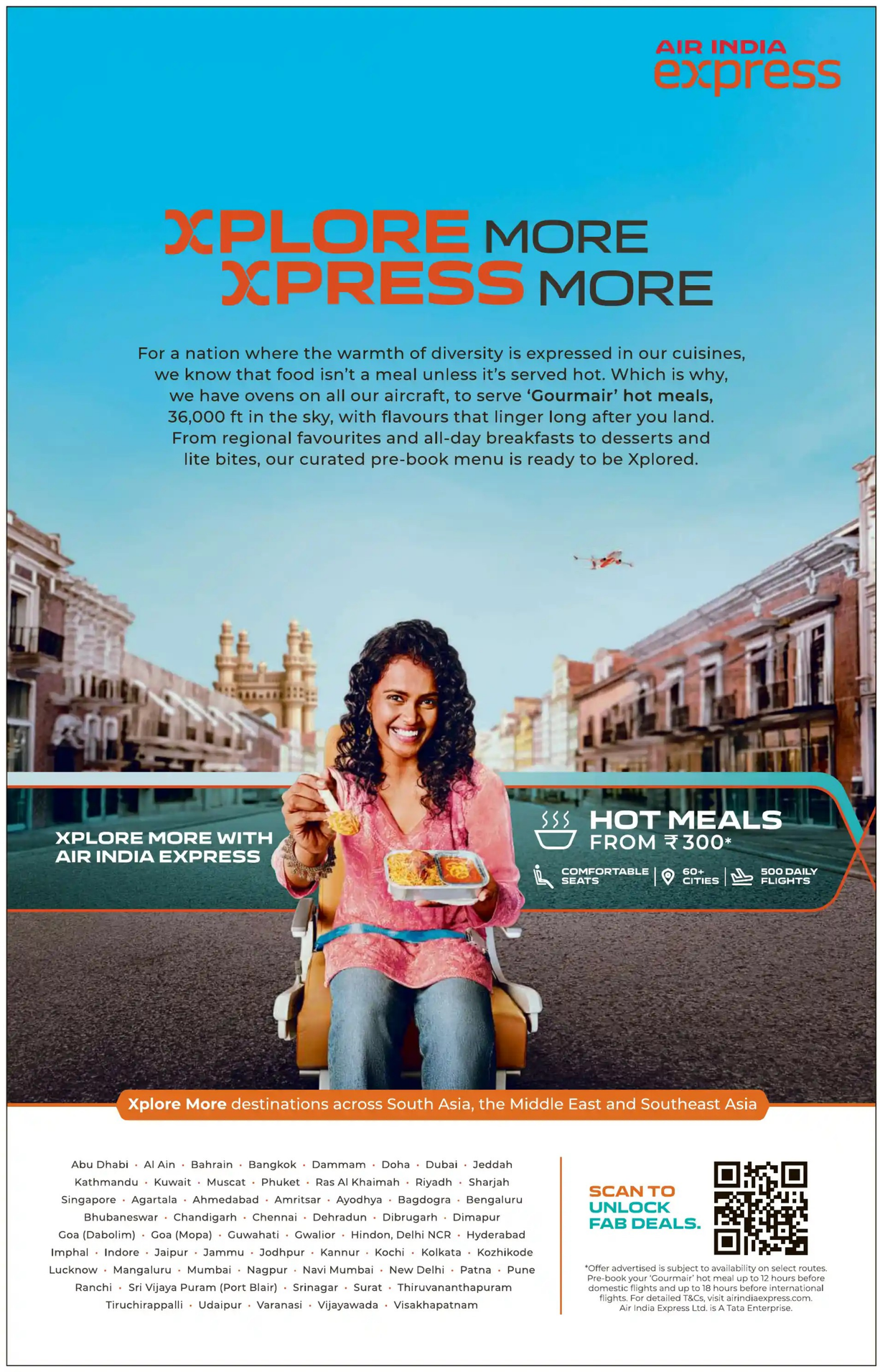
The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday directed the electoral officer in charge of elections to Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) not to announce the list of candidates for the post of president. Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order on a petition by K N Shanth Kumar, whose nomination was rejected.
Details on Page 4

Class 10 girl gives birth in hostel toilet

A Class 10 student on Wednesday gave birth to a child in the lavatory of the D Devaraj Urs Pre-Matriculation Girls' Hostel in Kukanur taluk, Koppal. Hanumanagouda Batti from Yelburga, who is believed to have fathered the child, has been arrested.
Details on Page 4

Euthanasia plea: SC for forming board

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Noida district hospital to constitute a primary board to explore passive euthanasia for a 31-year-old man suffering from 100% disability quadriplegia and who has been in a vegetative state for over a decade.
Details on Page 11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Toll operator assaulted by couple over queue delay

Backlog at NICE Rd toll booth triggers violent outburst

BENGALURU, DHNS

A NICE Road toll operator was allegedly assaulted by a couple furious about waiting in queue on November 24.

Arun R Gowda, 24, working at the Bannerghatta Road toll gate, alleged that the couple also vandalised his office computer and threatened him.

Around 4.30 pm, Gowda was manning the toll booth when the couple arrived in a queue behind four vehicles. The couple got out of their car and allegedly abused him for the slow tolling process.

Gowda explained that other vehicles were ahead and he was only doing his duty. However, the couple allegedly barged into the booth, snatched the Electronic Data Capture (EDC) machine, and attacked him. The man punched and kicked him, causing injuries to his right shoulder and cheek, while the woman hit him with a dustbin, Gowda claimed in his police complaint.

The injuries required a day of hospitalisation, Gowda said. He later approached the police.

Police are making efforts to trace the couple using the car's registration number. They have retrieved CCTV footage that recorded the alleged assault.

Speaking to *DH*, Gowda said the couple was headed towards Mysuru Road from Bannerghatta Road and that their car was partially damaged at the rear, from an earlier accident, before they arrived at the toll gate.

"They seemed to be in a hurry and vented their frustration on me. Four of my colleagues saved me while I was being attacked," he added.

Karmelaram-Bellandur Road double line gets safety nod

Demand grows for more trains for local commuters

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karmelaram-Bellandur Road double line has received the statutory safety clearance.

On Tuesday, Commissioner of Railway Safety (Southern Circle) AM Chowdhary conducted an inspection and speed trial of the 3.522-km newly constructed double line. He also inspected the new Huskur crossing station, located near Electronics City.

The double line is part of the 48-km Baiyappanahalli–Hosur doubling project.

Work started in June 2020, and the project has dragged on. K-RIDE, the project implementing agency, earlier commissioned only the Karmelaram-Heelalige section (10.5 km) in 2023.

According to the South Western Railway (SWR), the Karmelaram-Bellandur Road section has a major bridge with a span of 2×12.2 metres PSC slab for four tracks, 11 minor bridges and one road underbridge for five-track crossing.

Commissioner of Railway Safety (Southern Railway) AM Chowdhary inspects the Karmelaram-Bellandur Road double line on Tuesday. PHOTO: SWR

At Bellandur Road, a subway connecting platforms 1 and 2 has been constructed. Previously a halt station, it has now been upgraded to a full-fledged yard with five lines (roads) and two high-level platforms, each 600 metres long.

At Huskur, a new crossing station yard with two new loop lines and three crossovers on both ends of the yard have been constructed.

The commissioning of this Karmelaram-Bellandur Road section will facilitate the operation of more trains between Baiyappanahalli and Heelalige and enhance flexibility in train operations, the SWR said.

Anekal Road is also getting a new station, three platforms and a foot overbridge. New station buildings have already been constructed at Karmelaram and Heelalige under the project.

Rajkumar Dugar, founder and convenor of Citizens For Citizens, welcomed the commissioning of the new double line and urged the railways to start new up/down MEMU train services between Bengaluru Cantonment and Hosur for local commuters.

Spoken Kannada classes in two batches

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kannada Prasaara Parishat has started online spoken Kannada classes in two batches.

The Basic Spoken Kannada Class Batch-1, which began on November 2, will conclude in the second week of January. The classes are held on Fridays (7.30 pm to 9 pm) and Sundays (10.30 am to noon).

Batch-2, which began on November 4, will end in the second week of January. The classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays (7.30 pm to 9 pm).

Each batch will have 30 hours of classes spread over 20 sessions. Both batches will continue only if at least 20 participants register. If enough participants register, level-2 classes will be launched.

Contact BV Raghavan at 9448878569 for details, according to a news release.

Power supply to be disrupted in parts of city today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Power supply in several areas will be affected between 10 am and 5 pm on Thursday due to maintenance works taken up by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL).

Areas affected: Wilson Garden, Hombegowda Nagar, Sampangiramanagar, JC Road, Shantinagar, BTS Road, Richmond Circle, Residency Road, Sudhamanagar, KH Road, Double Road, Subbaiah Circle, Siddaiah Road, Lalbagh Road, and surrounding localities.

Three killed in separate road accidents in Nelamangala

BENGALURU, DHNS

Three people, including a biker, were killed in separate road accidents in Nelamangala on Wednesday.

In the first incident, two men died after a speeding truck crashed into their tractor at Mallarabanawadi Cross in Nelamangala.

The deceased have been identified as Premkumar and Ramesh, residents of Gudemaranahalli, who were farmers.

Police said that around 8.30am, Ramesh was driving a tractor and attempted to take a right turn on a busy stretch without signalling.

The truck driver, unable to anticipate the tractor's sudden movement, rammed into it at high speed from the opposite direction. Both men died on the spot. The truck driver escaped, leaving the vehicle at the scene.

Police attributed the accident to negligence by the tractor driver.

Highway crash

In another incident, a 22-year-old biker died, and his friend was severely injured after a speeding truck ran over them on the Kunigal-Bengaluru highway on Tuesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Swaroop, a businessman, who was riding towards Bengaluru on a Royal Enfield. Around 1.30am, he lost balance after brushing into an auto. Both fell on the right side of the road.

The truck coming from behind ran over Swaroop, who died on the spot. His friend Manasi, who was riding pillion, sustained injuries and was rushed to a private hospital, where she is recovering.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Free health camp: Organised by Government First Grade College; College premises, KR Puram; 10 am.

International conference: On 'Language, Culture and Global Peace: A Conversation for Peaceful World'; Rajendra Chenni and B Ramesh to participate; Organised by Dr Manmohan Singh; Bangalore City University; Jnanajyothi Auditorium, Central College; 10.30 am.

Youth Parliament session: Organised by Islamic information centre; UT Khadar, Abdul Wahid, Byrathi Suresh and others to participate; Kabir IND PU College, RT Nagar; 11 am.

Launch of Digital Mobile Planetarium: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah; Organised by Department of Science and Technology; NS Boseraju to be present; Vidhana Soudha; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Subhadra Parinaya'; Organised by Sri Sai Kalavrinda; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 3 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

CCB arrests couple for producing, supplying adulterated ghee

BENGALURU, DHNS: CCB sleuths, who recently busted a major interstate racket involved in producing and supplying adulterated ghee packaged in counterfeit Nandini pouches, have arrested a couple believed to be the prime accused.

The two, hailing from Mysuru, had allegedly set up a production unit in Tamil Nadu.

On November 14, the CCB raided a godown and seized 8,136 litres of fake Nandini ghee worth Rs 1.26 crore, arresting four people linked to Krishna Enterprises in Chamarajpet.

During the probe, investigators found that Shivakumar and his wife Ramya had been operating the racket for several years. They had reportedly set up an advanced facility worth several lakhs to produce the spurious product and had created a network of distributors across Karnataka and beyond.

The CCB has also frozen about Rs 60 lakh in their bank accounts.

Samples of the seized ghee have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to determine the substances mixed in it.

10 trains to be cancelled, partially cancelled to facilitate widening of major arterial road

BENGALURU, DHNS: Due to the line and power block between the Hejjala and Kengeri railway stations to facilitate the widening of the major arterial road by the BDA, the following trains will be cancelled or partially cancelled:

Train number 56265 Arsikere–Mysuru Passenger will be cancelled on November 27, December 4, January 22 and 29, February 5 and March 26.

Train number 56266 Mysuru-Arsikere Passenger will be cancelled on November 28, December 5, January 23 and 30, February 6 and March 27.

Train number 06269 Mysuru–SMVT Bengaluru Passenger will be cancelled on November 27, December 4, January 22 and 29, February 5 and March 26.

Train number 06270 SMVT Bengaluru–Mysuru Passenger will be cancelled on November 27, December 4, January 22 and 29, February 5 and March 26.

Train number 66535 KSR Bengaluru-Channapatna MEMU will be cancelled on November 28, December 5, January 23 and 30, February 6 and March 27.

Train number 06526 Ashokapuram–KSR Bengaluru MEMU will be cancelled between Channapatna and KSR Bengaluru on November 27, December 4, January 22 and 29, February 5 and March 26.

Train number 16022 Ashokapuram-MGR Chennai Central Express will be cancelled between Ashokapuram and KSR Bengaluru on November 27, December 4, January 22 and 29, February 5 and March 26. It will originate from KSR Bengaluru instead of Ashokapuram at the scheduled departure time of KSR Bengaluru.

Train number 66580 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU will be cancelled between Ramanagara and KSR Bengaluru on November 27, December 4, January 22 and 29, February 5 and March 26.

Train 66579 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram MEMU will be cancelled between KSR Bengaluru and Ramanagaram on November 28, December 5, January 23 and 30, February 6 and March 27. It will originate from Ramanagara instead of KSR Bengaluru at the scheduled departure time of Ramanagara.

Train 16227 Mysuru-Talguppa Express will be cancelled between Mysuru and KSR Bengaluru on December 4 and February 5.

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office: Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone: -0651-2400799 &Fax: 0651-2400799
https://www.jbvnl.co.in • Email- cere_jseb@yahoo.co.in

Short e-procurement Notice

NIT No. - 271/PR/JBVNL/2025-26

E-tender is invited by General Manager (RP), JBVNL for the selection of Project Management Agency (PMA) to provide services & support for implementation of works under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) & Pradhan Mantri – Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM – AJAY) of RDSS:-

SN	Details of Work	
1	Selection of Project Management Agency (PMA) to provide services and comprehensive support for implementation of works under Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to JBVNL under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA -JGUA) & Pradhan Mantri – Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM – AJAY) of RDSS	
2	Estimated Cost :- **Rs.53,31,240/-**(including GST) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) **:-Rs. 1,06,625/- which is 2% of estimated cost** Tender Fee **:-Rs. 29,500/-** (including GST)	
3	**Calendar of Events:**	
i	Date of Publish of tender Notice	26.11.2025
ii	Date of Publish of tender Documents	27.11.2025
iii	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online)	11.12.2025upto 15:00 Hrs.
iv	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	12.12.2025 at 16:00 Hrs.

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
General Manager (RP)

PR 367131 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd) 25-26 (D)

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
CONSTRUCTION WORKS

E-Tender Notice No:-16-2025-SrDENCo DRM (W)'s, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms/Contractor for the following work. **01. Name of work:** 1-Construction of quarters in lieu of old quarters at SUR (Type-III 08 units & TypeIV 06 units) under ADEN/W/SUR sub division. 2-Construction of quarters in lieu of old quarters at WD(type-III 04 unit),SDB (RB-II 4 units & type-III 02 unit), MR (Typell 04 units) & NGS (Type-II 04 units) under ADEN/KLBG & ADEN/W/SUR sub division. 3-Construction of New quarters at SUR (Type-III 08 units), WDS (type-II 04 units), MA (type-II 04 units) & MVE (type-II 04 units) under ADEN/W/SUR. 4-Construction of New quarters at HG (type-II 8 units & type-III 2 unit), DUD (type-II 4 units) & AKOR (type-II 4 units) under ADEN/W/SUR. **02. Approximate cost of work:** Rs. 14,98,52,129.99 **03. Earnest Money** Rs. 8,99,300.00 **04. Completion period of the work:** 12(Twelve) Months **05. Maintenance Period:** 24(Twenty Four) Months **06. Cost of Tender form:** Nil **07. Date and time for submission for tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 16.12.2025 up to 15.00 hrs. **08. Date and time of opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in** : 16.12.2025 after 15.30 hrs. **09. Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in 10. Note:** The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change/corrigendum issued for this tender website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

ANJ-67

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Y-E-29-2025-26-66
Dated : 20.11.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Provision of	Rs. 12,68,858.60

Auxiliary Transformer for Interlocked LC gates in Mysuru Division-GSU work (Mysuru-Hassan Section).

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 12.12.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TR/ Mysuru

PUB/679/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/28
Dated : 19-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of SSP at Banaswadi and modification of SSP at Baiyyappanahalli Cabin	Rs. 2,15,57,534.08

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 12-12-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru

PUB/675/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

Short e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/2370
Date- 26.11.2025

1.	Name of the work	IRQP work (i) Sonari Marine Drive Fagu Baba Shamshan Ghat to River Meet Main Road via Jogers Park and link road , Sonari Central Puja Committee to near Carmel School , LIC Colony & link road (L-2.70 KM) (ii) Sonari 7 No Extension Hanuman Mandir to Pearl View Apartment and link road (L-1.25KM) (iii) Kadma Ramjanamnagar Entrance Gate to end of B N Singh Bagan & link road , Marine Drive Keshav Madav Path(L-2.00 KM) (iv) Kadma Ramnagar Chowk beside Arogya Bhawan to Ramnagar Main road (RCST), Ramnagar 7 No cross road to Marine Drive via backside of Sapna Complex to 2 No road and link road, Marine Drive Ghoda Chowk to Ashok Path end via Ganga Path (L-2.1 KM) (v) Kadma Shastrinagar B No-04 Chat Ghat Entrance Gate to Marine Drive & link road, DVC Chowk Hanuman Mandir to end of Tank road via Astha Balram, Vidyasagar Path and ahead of Vijya Heritage Phase-05 to via Ambedkar Park to DSP Bangla & link road (L-1.86 Km) (Total Length - 9.91 km) FY-2025-26
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 10,62,16,186.21 (Rupees Ten Crore Sixty Two Lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred & Eighty Six - Paise Twenty One Only)
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 10.63 Lakh (Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Three Thousand only).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	05 (Five Months)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	28.11.2025 at 12.30 P.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	28.11.2025 from 12.30 P.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	11.12.2025 up to 02.00 PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	11.12.2025 Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	12.12.2025 at 3.00 PM by e-Procurement Cell, Room No. 330A, 3rd floor, Road Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya , Dhurwa , Ranchi
13.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.- 1, CH Area.
14.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0657-2227724
15.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer -cum- Executive Engineer RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

PR 367141 Road (25-26)_D

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.; Description of works; Tender value; EMD** respectively **: (1) TRD-KGP-W-2025-26-07RT3, dated 25.11.2025;** Santragachi – Connectivity of Hospital Siding Line No.- 2, 5 & 6 with WCD Yard along with extension of Hospital Siding Line No. 05 & 06, dismantling of old Dy. CYM office & construction of new Dy. CYM office building and modification of Pit wheel lines with facility of Shunting Neck; ₹ 1,46,86,189.60; ₹ 2,23,400/-. **(2) TRD-KGP-W-2025-26-22RT, dated 25.11.2025;** 1. Bagnan : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 2. Uluberia : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 3. Andul : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 4. Mecheda : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and 5. Tamluk : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme; ₹ 2,32,34,273.40; ₹ 2,66,200/-. **(3) TRD-KGP-W-2025-26-27RT, dated 25.11.2025;** Panskura Yard: Removal of PSR 75 kmph on UP Line, 110 kmph in DN Line, 110 kmph in MID line, including correction of layout at Panskura east outer yard and Panskura-Raghunathbari to Kharagpur, also improvement of Drainage system; ₹ 2,83,83,217.68; ₹ 2,91,900/-. **(4) TRD-KGP-W-2025-26-04RT3, dated 25.11.2025;** 1. Belda : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 2. Jaleswar : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 3. Ghatsila : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and 4. Jhargram : Provision of 12.0m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme; ₹ 1,44,38,511.80; ₹ 2,22,200/-. **Cost of tender document :** Nil for each. **Completion Period :** 12 (Twelve) months for each. **Date of Submission :** 17.12.2025 for sl. no. 1 & 2; 19.12.2025 for sl. no. 3 and 23.12.2025 for sl. no. 4. **Date of Opening :** 17.12.2025 for sl. no. 1 & 2; 19.12.2025 for sl. no. 3 and 23.12.2025 for sl. no. 4. Interested Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details, descriptions, specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these work will be accepted. **Note :** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders.

(PR-882)

विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

कमांकः–विशा / स्टोर / 2025–25(460), दिनांक–21.11.2025

निविदा सूचना का शुद्धिपत्र

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना कमांक **SB/Store/2025-25 (308), Dated-30.09.2025** द्वारा **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)** के क्रय हेतु. ई–निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा में क्रय किये जाने वाले उपरोक्त उपकरण के **निविदा की सामान्य सेवा–शर्तो, तकनीकी मापदण्डों एवं समय सारणी** में आंशिक संशोधन के संबंध में ''**शुद्धिपत्र**'' **(Corrigendum)** जारी किया गया है जो website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app पर विभाग की वेबसाईट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

हेतु–उप पुलिस महानिरीक्षक, गुप्तवार्ता (जी), म.प्र. भोपाल

G-21979/25

Office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Jharkhand

TENDER NOTICE

Tender for Selection of WINDS Implementation Partners (WIP) for setting up of Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at Block level and Automatic Rain Gauge (ARG) at Gram Panchayat (GP)

No. 274, dated: 24-11-2025

Selection of WINDS Implementation Partners (WIP) to set up a network of Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at Block level and ARG at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

The Nodal Office B-PMFBY, Office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies, Government of Jharkhand invites quotations from experienced agencies for installation of Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at Block level and ARG at Gram Panchayat (GP).

All empaneled agencies are mandated to get enrolled on https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

The Tender Document can be uploaded online on https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/.

Last date and time for online submission of tender is 15-12-2025, 02:00 PM

Sd/-
Nodal Officer B-PMFBY
Office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Jharkhand, Ranchi.

PR 367132 Co-opretive(25-26)#D

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878 • e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,

Project Name: RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi.
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/RB/OM/675
PR No.: 365299
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_106278_1
This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum is being made in tender documents for **"RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi".**
The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender.

Corrigendum - 2

Sl. No.	Bid Document Ref.	Description	As per Corrigendum - 1	As per Corrigendum - 2
1.	NIT	Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Tender Fee and EMD online	27/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs	08/12/2025 at 17:00 Hrs
2.		Date & Time of Bid Opening	28/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs	09/12/2025 at 17:00 Hrs

Note: Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd.

PR 367179 (Urban Development and Housing) 25-26 (D)

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving

Thank you Infant Jesus for your blessings and all the favours received. Sorry for the delay
- Dr. Shobhana R. Thakrar

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	18.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	68%
Sunset (Nov 27)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 28)	6:23 am
Moonrise	11:12 am
Moonset	22:56 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

KSR STATION ○ Cantonment ○ Yeshwantpur ○ SMVT ○ KR Puram

Bengaluru's busiest railway stations are the entry points into the bustling city. This series explores the most iconic stops, examining their amenities, accessibility, and commuter experience. We delve into both the highlights and shortcomings, and what makes each station unique

KSR Bengaluru station juggles between high footfall, safety worries

HIGHLIGHTS

10 Platforms

2.5 lakh Passengers

200 trains The number the station serves

107 acres Total area of station

Rs 1,228 cr (approx) For two major projects

ASRA MAVAD & SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Bengaluru, previously known as Bangalore City railway station, is a significant landmark.

A key 'A1' railway station, it serves nearly 200 trains, including various express and superfast options, as well as passenger services.

KSR Bengaluru is spread over 107 acres, boasting modern facilities while managing a daily footfall of approximately 2.5 lakh passengers, with 10 platforms that are equipped with pedestrian overbridges, escalators and ramps to aid wheelchair users.

Regular maintenance keeps most areas clean, though some spots still have unpleasant odour. Waiting rooms, clean washrooms and a baby feeding cubicle are available, though the cubicle is sometimes misused.

The station is undergoing renovations.

While these works do not affect passengers directly, construction zones remain dusty.

STATE OF STATIONS

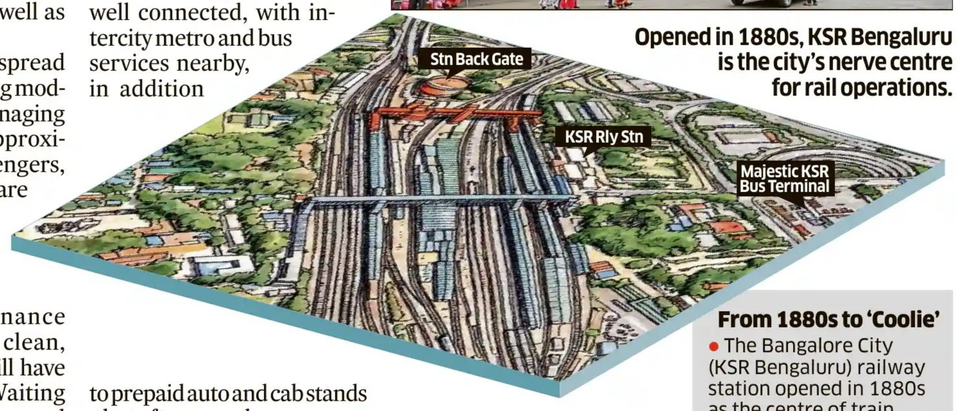
Two major projects

Indian Railways has planned two major projects to improve the station's look and feel.

One is a Rs 228-crore plan to add two platforms towards Yeshwantpur, build a maintenance facility for Vande Bharat trains and adjust shunting necks.

The second is a Rs1,000-1,500-crore redevelopment project to construct a multi-storey station building, an aircourse, a fourth entry towards Magadi Road and commercial development. This remains on the drawing board.

KSR Bengaluru remains well connected, with intercity metro and bus services nearby, in addition to prepaid auto and cab stands that often overcharge.



Opened in 1880s, KSR Bengaluru is the city's nerve centre for rail operations.

Passengers complain about poor connectivity with bus and metro stations after 11 pm, as civic authorities shut the foot overbridge. The underpass linking the railway station with the metro and other stations is also dirty and often occupied by inebriated homeless people.

Pickpocket problem

A snack vendor on Platform 1 said the station, though clean and popular, is unsafe during late hours. "I make it a point to stay in my store as long as possible, especially at night, after it was ransacked a few months ago."

He said the safer option at night is to use the waiting rooms instead of staying on the platforms. Passengers have echoed concerns about increased pickpocket activity.

In 2025, there have been 51 documented theft cases. Between 2023 and 2025, there has been a 28% decrease in thefts.

"There is no particular time when these thefts take place. We have increased patrolling round the clock at all stations," said Yathish N, Superintendent of Police (Railways), Karnataka.

From 1880s to 'Coolie'

- The Bangalore City (KSR Bengaluru) railway station opened in 1880s as the centre of train operations.
- It was later renamed after freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna.
- The 1983 Hindi film 'Coolie', starring Amitabh Bachchan, was extensively shot here, taking its fame beyond Karnataka.

> **There is no particular time when these thefts take place. We have increased patrolling round the clock at all stations, especially for trains with more theft cases, such as the Bengaluru-Bangarpet trains and the trains on the Arsikere routes.**
> **Yathish N, SP (Railways), Karnataka**

BDA to empanel law firms as legal cases stall projects

Clearing 5,000 pending cases key to completing delayed road works: Officials

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The BDA plans to appoint a law firm for each zone – North, East, West, South and Central – to expedite these cases. According to a public notice, the firms will handle complex land acquisition and property disputes.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) plans to appoint five law firms to fight thousands of pending legal cases in various courts.

Nearly 5,000 cases are pending, stalling BDA projects and layout development, sources said.

"In many cases, layout development and road formation are delayed due to ongoing land acquisition disputes, and farmers would have gone to court. It is important to expedite and resolve such legal battles quickly so that the layouts can be completed," a senior BDA legal official said.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru in-charge minister DK Shivakumar recently met BDA officials regarding the backlog.

The BDA now plans to appoint a law firm for each zone — North, East, West, South and Central — to expedite these cases. According to a public notice, the firms will handle complex land acquisition and property disputes.

Currently, the BDA employs about 80 advocates — 40 for high court cases and 40 for other courts.

A BDA engineering official said court cases have stalled work in several layouts. "We faced similar issues in the Arkavathy and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda layouts. Land disputes have delayed connecting roads for years after allotment," the official said.

Of 4,043 acres in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, about 1,064 acres are under litigation, halting development.

Site allottees said the ongoing litigations force them to take long detours to reach their sites.

"There are no connecting roads and even water and power lines must be rerouted, making house construction difficult," said a site owner at the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

Many cases involve land acquisition, while others concern encroachment. "BDA properties are high value, so encroachments are frequent. We cannot act until court stay orders are lifted," another official said.

Over 1,000 of 4,043 acres in Kempegowda Layout are tied up in litigation, stalling development. DH FILE PHOTO

Farmers from Bengaluru's outskirts submit objections to the BDA over the proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Farmers file mass objections to PRR land acquisition

BENGALURU, DHNS : In what could be seen as a collective show of strength, hundreds of land owners submitted formal objections to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), refusing to accept any of the five compensation options offered for land acquisition under the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), now rebranded as the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC).

The development takes place at a time when the authority had started issuing awards for taking custody of the land in a bid to start the construction of the road work pending for two decades.

The farmers argued that the project's land acquisition process has become legally untenable, claiming the scheme has already lapsed under Section 27 of the BDA Act, as no awards were passed within five years of its finalisation in 2007.

The latest attempts to push the project forward are "arbitrary, unconstitutional, and in violation of Article 300A", which protects the right to property, the farmers said as they filed en mass objections at the BDA head office in the city.

While farmers reiterated that they are not opposed to the construction of the road, they stressed that they are compelled to fight for fair compensation granted under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act, which the state government has not applied in this case.

In their objections, landowners rejected all five options — cash compensation, transferrable development rights, floor area ratio, developed residential plots, and developed commercial plots — calling them unjust, impractical, or discriminatory. They noted that cash compensation is pegged based on the 2016 guidance value, which is far below current market rates, while other alternatives either lack legal clarity, offer inadequate land, or create long waiting periods with no guarantee of allotment.

Senior BDA officers, however, insist that the project will help at least 70% of the land owners as they continue to retain some portion of their property even after the road is built. They acknowledge that the land acquisition may not be attractive only for people who own less than 20 guntas of land as these land owners can only opt for cash compensation.

GBA eyes CSR route to revive under-flyover spaces

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority will develop several under-flyover spaces using corporate social responsibility grants, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao has said.

Maheshwar Rao

During an inspection under the Bengaluru East City Corporation on Wednesday, Rao said the Iblur beautification work had set a model for under-flyover transformation.

At Carmelaram, L&T has created a 'Chaturanga Mandapa' style space under CSR. He instructed officials to explore similar designs at other locations.

Alongside this, the chief commissioner issued directions to speed up infrastructure work in east Bengaluru. He asked officials to coordinate with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to complete the pending entry–exit connections along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), where three such points have already been implemented to ease congestion.

On Sarjapur Road, he called for upgrading service roads, resolving TDR-related issues, and identifying unauthorised structures for removal.

Rao also said that the merging of the Wipro-built drain with the city corporation drain must be expedited to prevent flooding.

Roadworks across Kaikondrahalli, Gunjur, Panathur and Chikkabellandur came under review. Rao sought immediate action on completing asphalt works, clearing bottlenecks caused by stormwater drains, issuing pending TDR for a 900-metre stretch, and ensuring footpath development.

He further directed officials to initiate acquisition of six acres of forest land near New Horizon College on SH-45 to enable construction of a new road to relieve traffic congestion in the area.

The inspection was attended by East City Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh, Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Joint Commissioner Dakshayini K, Chief Engineer M Lokesh, executive engineers and other officials.

PINK BLOOM

Tabebuia rosea blooms transform Mahatma Gandhi Circle in Bengaluru into a vibrant splash of pink. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

1 km-long Kannada flag rally in city

BENGALURU, DHNS: To mark the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, a rally featuring a one-kilometre-long Kannada flag was organised on Sunday by the Udbhava Ganapati Geleyara Balaga and the Pattegarapalya Citizens Welfare Association.

The rally began from Pattegarapalya Circle and concluded at Prashanth Nagar.

Language awareness

During the event, organisers distributed pamphlets encouraging non-Kannada speakers to learn the language and highlighted the importance of Kannada to shopkeepers and residents belonging to other linguistic communities in the area.

Minor caught doing wheelie; court fines father Rs 25k

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Bengaluru court has fined the father of a 17-year-old boy Rs 25,000 after the teenager was caught performing a wheelie near Rajajinagar earlier this year.

Rajajinagar traffic police registered a case after a video shot by passersby showed the boy and a friend performing the dangerous stunt on West of Chord Road on March 27.

The clip was widely circulated on social media.

Police reviewed CCTV footage, traced the scooter, and booked the case under BNS Section 281 (rash or negligent driving or riding in a public way that endangers human life or is likely to cause injury) and relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. The scooter was also seized.

However, investigations revealed the vehicle was registered in the name of Shaktivelu, a Seshadripuram resident employed by the teen's father, Govindaraj.

"Govindaraj had bought the vehicle using my documents. The boy took it out at midnight to perform the stunt. When police issued me a notice, I shared Govindaraj's details. He appeared before the magistrate and paid the fine," Shaktivelu told *DH*.

Taking a stern view of reckless riding and parental negligence, the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Traffic Court–4 imposed the Rs 25,000 fine on Tuesday, police officials said.

श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR CODES
MADE EFFECTIVE
"The nation is proud of its workforce. Shramev Jayate!"
-Prime Minister, Narendra Modi
MODI GOVERNMENT'S GUARANTEE FOR
AUDIO-VISUAL WORKERS
Digital and audio-visual workers including electronic media personnel, journalists, dubbing artists and stunt persons to receive full benefits
Mandatory appointment letter for all workers
Mandatory timely payment of wages
Overtime Work is now consent based with pay at double the normal wage rate
CBC 23101/13/0007/2526
Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

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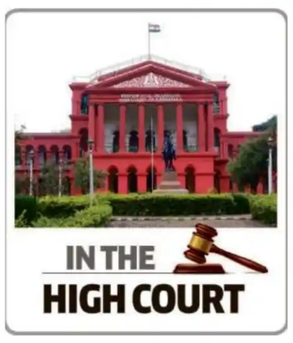
2nd Death Anniversary
SRI. R. AMBIKAPATHY
Former Vice President,
Karnataka State Contractors Association
Former President,
BBMP Contractors Association
20.05.1954 - 27.11.2023
You may depart, but your vision continues to light the path for generations. We cherish every lesson you taught, every moment we shared, and the unconditional love that continues to be our strength.
Fondly Remembered by:
Family Members & Friends

HC directs KSCA not to announce list of candidates for polls

Asks to place video of scrutiny, time-stamped printout of arrears payment



BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday directed the electoral officer in charge of elections to the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) not to announce the list of eligible candidates in respect of the post of president, including the withdrawal made by Kalpana Venkatachar, for the post of president.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed this order in a petition filed by K N Shanth Kumar, whose nomination for the post of president was rejected by the electoral officer Dr B Basavaraju.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj has also directed the electoral officer and KSCA to place before the court the video recording of the scrutiny proceedings and a time-stamped printout of the time when payment of arrears was made by Shanth Kumar.

The petitioner has sought a direction to quash the November 24, 2025, order passed by the electoral officer rejecting his nomination on the ground of 'pending arrears'.

The petitioner further sought directions to declare him as a valid candidate to contest the elections and directions to the electoral officer to carry on the poll process in terms of the calendar of events.

During the hearing, senior advocate S S Naganand, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the application filed by Shanth Kumar was rejected on the ground that the institution membership of Deccan Herald and Prajavani Sports Club was in arrears of Rs 200.

He argued that the payment was made on the morning of November 24, well before the scrutiny proceedings. It was submitted that the regulation contemplates that candidature could not be allowed as long as there are arrears.

"When the application was taken up for scrutiny, the arrears had already been paid. The electoral officer was informed about the payment; however, it was ignored," Naganand said.

Senior advocate Prabhuling Navadgi, appearing for B K Venkatesh Prasad, submitted that though the petitioner claims to have submitted during the scrutiny of having paid the arrears, the order passed by the electoral officer does not record it.

He further argued that a writ petition calling into question an order passed by the electoral officer is not maintainable.

The court directed the matter to be posted on Thursday morning.

"There are two simple facts required to be ascertained, namely, whether the institution member, namely, Deccan Herald and Prajavani Sports Club, has made the payment of arrears prior to scrutiny being complete and rejection of the nomination of the petitioner and whether the same has been brought to the notice of the electoral officer. For these limited purposes, respondent 1 or respondent 2 (electoral officer and KSCA), who are in custody of the video recording of the scrutiny proceedings and a time-stamped printout of the time when payment was made, are directed to be produced," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

Kuvempu National Award for Konkani writer

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Konkani and Marathi writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been selected for the Kuvempu National Award for 2025.

Mahabaleshwar Sail

In a press note, the Kuppali-based Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishtana said the award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a silver medal. The award presentation ceremony will be held at Kuppali in Thirthahalli taluk on December 29, the birth anniversary of the poet laureate Kuvempu, he added.

Mahabaleshwar Sail is originally from Shejebag village near Majali in Uttara Kannada district. He has served in the Indian Army and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force. After retirement, he also served in the forest, police and postal departments in Goa and is currently residing there.

Sail has received the prestigious Saraswati Samman Award for his novel 'Hawthan'.

His collection of stories 'Taranga' has received the Kendra Sahitya Academy Award and the Goa Government Literary Award.

OBITUARY

Dr. Shailaja Nikam
Retd. Dir All India Institute of Speech and Hearing Mysore
24th Feb 1940 - 26th Nov 2025
Death has no reality except as a process of life.
Deeply Mourned by
Family Members

Cruelty under IPC sec 498A attracted even in live-in relationship cases: HC

'Provision of said sec extends to relationship which bears attributes of marriage'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The provisions of IPC section 498A (cruelty) are attracted even in cases of void or voidable marriages, or a relationship in the nature of marriage, provided the ingredients of the offence are otherwise established, the Karnataka high court has ruled in a recent judgement.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said this while dismissing the petition filed by a Shivamogga-based doctor and his family members.

The petitioner challenged separate proceedings, pending before a Shivamogga court and Bengaluru court for various offences including IPC sections 498A (cruelty) 494 (bigamy), 504 and 506 (criminal intimidation). The complainant-woman had alleged that they lived together for a substantial period, discharged marital obligations, and held themselves out to society as husband and wife. During this period, it is alleged that the petitioner received gold, silver, and cash from her family members, and allegedly made unlawful demands. The allegation also included acts of harassment, cruelty and even an attempt to cause her death.

The petitioner - doctor argued that the complainant is not his legally wedded wife and that he is already married and had a daughter. It was further contended that at most, the relationship could be a live-in relationship and living together would not attract the offence of IPC section 498A, which can only be attracted in a valid and legal marital relationship.

The court noted that the expression "husband" in IPC section 498A is not confined to a man in a legally valid marriage. It also extends to one who enters a marital relationship which is void or voidable, as also to a live-in relationship which bears the attributes of marriage, so long as the essential ingredients of cruelty as defined in the explanation to the section are satisfied, the court said.

"If the Petitioner's submission were to be accepted, it would produce a manifestly unjust and anomalous result - namely, that a man who deceives a woman into a void marriage by concealing his earlier marriage could then escape criminal liability under Section 498A merely because the relationship lacks legal validity. Such a position would not only defeat the purpose of the enactment but also encourage fraud and exploitation of women under the guise of invalid marital relationships. The courts cannot countenance such a perverse consequence," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHINMAYA MISSION HOSPITAL,
Bangalore-38.
for disposal of old Medical Records
This is to inform all our Patients / Concerned, that the old Medical records pertaining to the In-patient (January 2019 to December 2019-IP Number from 236700 to 253100) will be destroyed as per the retention policy of the Hospital.
Patients in need of a Copy of their old records should contact the Management with a Valid ID proof, Registration Numbers, Admission and discharge details within a month from the day of notification.
Sd/- Medical Director

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

General

WANTED A person to look after Xerox-shop at JP.Nagar experienced & nearby preferred.
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HARSHITH N & ACCHUT, residing at No.26, 1st Floor, 9th Cross, Rajiv Gandhi Layout, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru-560040, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as HARSHITH N vide affidavit 18.03.2025 before notary Sakina Bano, Bengaluru

I, LINGAMMA, Residing at #65, 3rd cross, Venugopalanagar Nagasandra Post Bengaluru-73 have changed my name as PUTTAMMA, vide affidavit dated 26/11/2025 before Notary V.Anjanappa, Bengaluru

I, TAPAN ROYCHOWDHURY (New Name) previously called TAPAN KUMAR ROYCHOWDHURY (Old Name), Residing at 1B1, 1st floor, B Block, IshaMisty Green, Near Water Tank, Channasandra, Kadugodi post, Bengaluru- 560067, vide affidavit dated 26/11/2025 before notary Veena J.

WE, SHIVARAJU .G and SURESH .G sons of Late GOVINDAIAH residing at 01 1st Main Ganganagar Extension Bangalore-560032 have changed father name from GOVINDARAJU to GOVINDAIAH vide affidavit 22/11/2025 Notary G.B. Turamari Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GEORGE. Y, residing at No.17, Q.No. 4th Street, 2nd Cross, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru - 560001, have changed my name to ANTHONY GEORGE, vide affidavit dated 25-11-2025 before Notary Gangaraju. B.N., Bengaluru. Henceforth, I shall be called as ANTHONY GEORGE only.

I, SHANKAR have changed my name to SHANKAR BALRAM vide affidavit dated: 26/11/2025 Before Notary Manohar Jeerige Bangalore.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, HABEEBUR RAHMAN MOHAMED GHOUSE S/o Ghouse, residing at No.19/1, Conservancy Lane, A.M.Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru- 560005, have changed my name to HABEEBUR RAHMAN vide affidavit dated 26-11-2025 sworn before Notary A.Gerard, Bengaluru. Henceforth, I shall be called HABEEBUR RAHMAN only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, D. RAGU, residing at No.9, 1st Floor, 10th Main, 11th Cross, Mallesh Palya Extn., Maruthinagar, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru - 560075, have changed my name to RAGHU D, vide affidavit dated 26-11-2025 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru. Henceforth, I shall be called RAGHU D only.

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Bengaluru

Class 10 student gives birth inside hostel toilet

KOPPAL, DHNS: A class 10 student delivered a baby in the lavatory of the D Devaraj Urs Pre-Matric Girls' Hostel in a Kukanur taluk village on Wednesday. Police have arrested Hanumanagouda Batti, a youth from Yelburga, believed to be the child's father.

Hostel warden Shashikala Hiremath and cooks Parvathi Kudirimoti and Priyanka Sindogi have been suspended for negligence. The FIR also names Shashikala, teachers Prabhakar Bajantri and Yenkappa Pujar, and RBSK medical officers Bharatesh Hiremath and Sabiya.

According to the girl's statement, she had known Hanumanagouda since class 8 and said he professed love, promised marriage and was physically intimate with her. At 5.30 am on Wednesday, she experienced severe abdominal pain and rushed to the lavatory, where she delivered a baby boy, District Child Protection Officer Mahantaswami Pujar said.

DAY OF DEVOTION

Hundreds of devotees take part in the annual car festival at Kukke Subrahmanya in Dakshina Kannada district on Wednesday, held as part of Champa Shashti to mark Lord Subrahmanya's triumph over the demon Tarakasura. DH PHOTO

High Court restores appointment of government pleader removed within 24 hours

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Dharwad bench of the High Court has restored the appointment of a government pleader at the Sessions court at Athani in Belagavi district, whose appointment was revoked within 24 hours.

"The State must remember that Article 14 of the Constitution of India is that golden thread that is woven through the entire fabric of the Constitution of India, and every bead of the State action should pass through that golden thread; any action of the State cannot be arbitrary," Justice M Nagaprasanna said, while allowing the petition filed by Annappa Sank.

On October 28, 2025, the petitioner was appointed as Additional District Government Pleader at the newly established Courts of Sessions at Athani. The petitioner assumed charge on the same day and appeared in several matters as a government pleader. The next day, on October 29, 2025, another notification was issued, abruptly withdrawing his appointment and substituting him with D B Thakkannavar as government pleader.

Challenging this, the petitioner submitted that while on his application/representation, the entire proceedings were drawn up, D B Thakkannavar had not even filed an application. On the other hand, the state government defended the action, stating that the appointment of the government pleader is at the pleasure of the state and it can be withdrawn at any time.

After examining the provisions under the Karnataka Law Officers (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, the court noted that while it is true that the appointments under Rule 26 are made at the pleasure of the government, such pleasure is not unfettered. It is hemmed in by the golden thread of Article 14 of the Constitution of India, which sternly prohibits arbitrariness, the court said, adding that the Constitution does not condone the state action that is whimsical, capricious or devoid of discernible reasoning.

"The arbitrariness is so palpable and demonstrable in the case at hand, the appointment of the petitioner, which cannot be termed illegal by any means or contrary to the statute, is taken away by a stroke of pen, not in a month, or a year, but within 24 hours. If this cannot be termed an arbitrary action on the part of the State, I fail to understand...," the court said.

CM offers pay hike for RTC staff from April, but unions stand firm on demands

Nov 28 protest rally put off, transport minister to hold next meeting on Dec 6

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bus transport employees' unions have postponed their November 28 protest rally after a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday.

The Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has been seeking the fulfilment of two long-pending demands: payment of Rs 1,785 crore in arrears for 38 months (January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2023) and a 25% pay hike from January 1, 2024.

While the chief minister's office did not issue a statement on what transpired at the meeting, the committee said Siddaramaiah offered the pay hike from April 1, 2026, a climbdown from his earlier timeline of April 1, 2027.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a meeting with the representatives of RTC employee unions at Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday. PHOTO/CMO

He also reiterated his offer to clear Rs 718 crore in arrears for 14 months (from January 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023).

The committee, however, held firm on both demands.

KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation president HV Ananth Subbarao urged the government to withdraw proposals that he said would hurt employees who had worked hard to make the free bus travel scheme a success.

The federation is one of six organisations in the joint committee.

Federation general secretary Vijaya Bhaskar DA reiterated that the government was duty-bound to meet both demands in full.

'Ends on a positive note'

Speaking to *DH*, Bhaskar said the meeting ended on a positive note since the chief minister had "climbed down" from his earlier position.

It was also decided that further deliberations will be held at a meeting chaired by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on December 6, he added.

"We've decided to call off our November 28 protest rally," Bhaskar stated.

The committee had earlier called a strike on August 5 after a similar meeting failed. The strike, which disrupted bus services across Karnataka, was called off following a high court directive.

The chief minister held a separate meeting with the R Chandrashekar-led KSRTC Employees' League, which wants RTC employees to be paid on a par with state government staff as per the pay commission.

Dr M R Jayaram felicitated on receiving Karnataka Rajyothsava Award

(Left to right) Ashok Rao, Registrar, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS); M R Sampangiramaiah, Director, Ramaiah Institute of Technology; Dr M R Seetharam, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation (GEF); Justice (Retd) Shivaraj V Patil, Supreme Court of India; Dr M R Jayaram, Chairman, GEF (Medical); M R Ramaiah, Secretary, GEF; Prof K K Raina, Vice Chancellor, RUAS and Dr Nagendra Swamy, Chief Executive, GEF (Medical).

Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) and Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences felicitated Dr M R Jayaram, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation (GEF), on being conferred the prestigious Karnataka Rajyothsava Award 2025 for his outstanding contributions in the field of education.

Held at Ramaiah Medical College the event had Justice (Retd) Shivaraj V Patil of the Supreme Court as the chief guest and was presided over by Dr M R Seetharam, Chairman, GEF. The event brought together faculty members, administrators, well-wishers and distinguished dignitaries to honour Dr Jayaram for his visionary leadership and transformative contributions to education and healthcare.

Justice Shivaraj V Patil commended Dr Jayaram for his dedication to building institutions that combine academic excellence with service to society. The Rajyothsava Award stands as a testament to Dr Jayaram's work in uplifting the standard of education in Karnataka, he said. Under Dr Jayaram's leadership, GEF (Medical) has grown into a premier centre for higher education, research and patient care, widely respected for its pursuit of innovation, quality and community service.

In his address, Dr Jayaram expressed heartfelt gratitude for the honour and emphasised on the collective effort behind GEF's success. "The Rajyothsava Award is a shared recognition of the commitment and hard work of the entire GEF community. Together, we will continue to build institutions that stand for knowledge, integrity and service," he said.

Dr M R Seetharam highlighted the significance of Dr Jayaram's achievements and reaffirmed GEF's commitment to nurturing excellence across its institutions. The honour reflects the enduring impact of Dr Jayaram's leadership on Karnataka's educational landscape, he said.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Appeal against Murugha Sharana based on legal opinion: Parameshwara

BELAGAVI/CHITRADURGA/DAVANGERE DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said that the government would seek legal opinion before arriving at a decision to appeal the acquittal of Murugha Mutt pontiff Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana in a Pocso case by a trial court.

Parameshwara told reporters in Belagavi that the government is yet to receive the order copies. "We shall obtain a legal opinion, and if it is in favour of appealing against the verdict, we shall file an appeal. As of now, we cannot comment," he said.

No evidence of sexual assault: Seer's counsel

Meanwhile, speaking to media persons after the verdict in Chitradurga, the seer's counsel K B K Swamy said the mutt's former administrative officer and former MLA S K Basavarajan and his family members had conspired against the seer for property.

The matter was brought to the notice of the court that the girls were trained with the help of an NGO in Mysuru, and a complaint was filed. The seer is acquitted of all charges, as there was no evidence for most of the charges, he added.

He also pointed out that the investigation has not found an answer to the question of where the girls were after the sexual assault took place until the complaint was filed.

The CCTV camera footage has not been found for the allegation that the seer was taking the girls to a private room. The court has considered these points as important, he claimed.

Seer wants to maintain silence

Seer Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana, who arrived in Davangere, said, "I have to maintain silence for a few more days. There is little time to speak. I will officially call a press conference and share information."

He responded to all the questions of the reporters with "no comments."

Before the seer arrived, the devotees raised slogans in his favour.

Rash driving blamed for accident that claimed IAS officer's life

JEWARGI (KALABURAGI DISTRICT), DHNS: The police have cited overspeeding and unsafe driving as the cause of the horrific accident that occurred on the outskirts of Jewargi town in the district on Tuesday, which claimed four lives, including that of IAS officer Mahantesh Bilagi.

Acting on a complaint filed by Bilagi's relative Basavaraj Kamaratagi, an FIR has been registered against Arokya Anthony Raj, the driver of the car in which the IAS officer was travelling, along with his relatives. A case has been filed under Sections 281, 125 (A), 125 (B) and 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita.

The car involved in the accident rammed into a bridge on the side of the road and was

Superintendent of Police Adduru Srinivasulu inspects the accident site near Gaunalli Cross on the outskirts of Jewargi in Kalaburagi district on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

sent cartwheeled. While two of Bilagi's relatives died on the spot, the IAS officer breathed his last in the hospital. The driver too sustained severe injuries and is currently undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, Iranna Shirasangi, who was injured in the accident, also died here on Wednesday morning. He failed to respond to the treatment after two surgeries, Manur Multispeciality Hospital director Dr Farooq Manur said.

Doctors said that the condition of the car driver Anthony Raj, who has been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kalaburagi, is stable. They said that the bones on both sides of his chest have been fractured.

SP Adduru Srinivasulu and the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory team, inspected the accident spot on Wednesday. He said that the cause of the accident and the speed of the vehicle will be ascertained only after obtaining a forensic science lab report. The last rites of Bilagi were performed at his plantation at Ramdurg with full state honours on Wednesday.

Process to set up industrial parks in Karnataka begins, says Kumaraswamy

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said that the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries has started the process of establishing industrial parks across key districts of the state.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has given a positive initial response to his request for establishing nine industrial parks in the state. The move marks an important early step in translating Karnataka's region-balanced industrial development aspirations into a structured central policy process, Kumaraswamy said in a statement.

According to an official communication, Goyal acknowledged receiving Kumaraswamy's letter and confirmed that the matter has been forwarded to the concerned department for necessary action.

Kumaraswamy recently met Goyal and presented a comprehensive pitch for the parks, arguing that nine districts, which includes Bidar, Raichur, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mysuru, Hassan, Kolar, Mangaluru, Chamarajanagar and Mandya, hold locational and resource advantages that position them as promising sites for new industrial ecosystems. He suggested setting up logistics and manufacturing hubs, agro-based and processing clusters, technology and service-oriented growth centres. These parks will "stimulate large-scale employment generation, attract private investment, and enhance regional supply chain linkages," he said.

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department

Assistant Conservator of Forests, Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.

No.: ACF/Channagiri/Tender-01/2025-26-3 Date: 17-11-2025

(Short-term Tender Through e-Procurement Portal Call-3)

Tenders are invited through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the works of maintenance for the year 2025-26 under the jurisdiction of Bhadravathi Forest Division: "Advance work including raising of 10X16 seedlings in limits of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Bhadravathi for the year 2025-26," Call-3. Last date for tender submission: 02-12-2025 at 4:00 PM. For tender conditions and further information, this office can be contacted during office hours. The details of the tender can also be obtained through the official website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Estimated amount of work: 176.42500 lakhs

Work details: "Advance work including raising of 10X16 seedlings in limits of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Bhadravathi for the year 2025-26."

Last date for submission of tender: 02-12-2025, 16:00 hrs

Date of opening of technical bid: 03-12-2025, 16:30 hrs

Date of opening of financial bid: 03-12-2025, 17:00 hrs

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/110/11/1288

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone-1, Bengaluru - 98.

No:BWCC/EE(Proj)/RRNZ-1/TEN/06/2025-26 Date: 26-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover Tender System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, (Project Division) Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone-1 for the Services mentioned below under the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal through electronic two cover tendering system (KPP Portal) in prescribed format from the registered Service provider/contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	Repairs and Maintenance of Animal Electrical Crematorium at Sumanahalli in **Ward No. 41** Kottigepalya Rajarajeshwarinagara Constituency. **Estimate Amount: ₹.50.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) downloading the Documents on **27-11-2025** (2) Last date & Time for Tender Queries is **28-11-2025** at **3:00** pm. (3) Last Date for Submission of Tender Document is **05-12-2025** up to **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is on **06-12-2025** upto **4:30** pm. (5) Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the **Technically Qualified Bidders.** In the Event of the Specified Date of Tender Opening being declared a Holiday for the Employer, the Tenders will be opened at the Appointed Time and Location on the Next Working Day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone-1

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

(ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ)

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ನಂ: ಸಂಗ್ರಾಹ/01,02/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20/11/2025

ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ Cat Eye Road Studs ಮತ್ತು 100 High quality Digitally Printed Sign Boards ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳವರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊ **ರೂ 34,48,735/- (ಮೂವತ್ತ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಲಕ್ಷದ ನಲ್ವತ್ತ ಎಂಟು ಸಾವಿರದ ಏಳುನೂರ ಮೂವತ್ತ ಐದು ಮಾತ್ರ).**

ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ Cat Eye Road Studs ಮತ್ತು 100 High quality Digitally Printed Sign Boards ಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ರ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 04-12-2025ರ** ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

Government of Karnataka

BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT

Executive Engineer, Panchayatha Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/28/2025-26 Date: 26.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTFICATION

(KPPP Tender Notice) (Single Cover System)

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For Different Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Date:**04.12.2025** upto **4.00pm** Further details can be obtained from web site at **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/4044/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

Estate Branch, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5

E-mail: estateofficer@rediffmail.com

Epabx:+91-836-2214332/216,444

No.EO/DB/TN/e-Proc.T-128 HP/2025-26 Date: 25.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (III RD CALL)

Tenders have been re-invited from registered OEMs/Authorized dealers, for works at various campuses of the University. The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. For more details please contact 0836-2214332 during office hours. Interested agencies need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For details of registration please contact Ph. No: **080-46010000.**

1	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications	06.12.2025	Up to 16.00 Hrs
2	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders	10.12.2025	Up to 16.00 Hrs
3	Date & Time for Opening of financial bid (single cover) & Technical Bid (two cover)	11.12.2025	At 16.1 5 Hrs
4	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid (two cover)	12.12.2025	At 16.00 Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued on-line from time to time on the e-procurement portal during the entire tender process.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/914/2025-26 Sd/- **Estate Officer**

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Sd/- Director (News)
Doordarshan Kendra, Bengaluru

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited

(Davanagere Branch Office)

Property No.: 8769837819-1663/A/A3, R. Sy. No. 91/2, Opp. Cikada Hotels, Shiva Arcade, Shamanur Main Road, Davanagere-577004. Phone: 08192-233493

No. : MSIL/DVG/005/2025-26 Date: 27.11.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-term tenders are invited from eligible individuals/ firms/agencies **for transporting liquor stock from designated depot of Davanagere KSBCL to respective Davanagere District liquor retail outlets of MSIL coming under Davanagere Branch.** Last date and time for submission of bids: **12.12.2025 up to 3.00 pm.** Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.

Sd/- Branch Head(Davanagere Branch)

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ

MCC/DMA/INDENT No.50461, 50460, 50459, 50402/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.11.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

E-PROCUREMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತ **ಅಮೃತ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಜಲ್ ಹಿ ಅಮೃತ್ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ** ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.12.2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ.** ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	Smart Monitoring proposal for 8.75MLD Pachanady Sewage Treatment Plant under Mangaluru City Corporation. (Indent No.50461)	1,00,00,000.00
2	Refurbishment of Existing 20MLD Capacity ASP Technology STP by proposing Addition Bubble Diffuser, Airblower & Controlpanels at Surathkal, Mangalore. (Indent No.50460)	1,00,00,000.00
3	Refurbishment of existing 43.5 MLD capacity UASB technology STP by proposing addition bubble diffuser, air blower & control panels at Kavoor, Mangalore (Indent No.50459)	1,00,00,000.00
4	Smart Monitoring proposal for 20MLD Bajal Sewage Treatment Plant under Mangaluru City Corporation. (Indent No.50402)	1,00,00,000.00

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1147/25-26 dt: 26.11.2025

THE MYSORE LAMP WORKS LIMITED

(A Public Sector Enterprise of the Government of Karnataka)

Old Tumkur Road, Malleswaram West, Bengaluru-560 055

Tel.: **080-23340182,** e-mail: **mylampsblr@gmail.com**

No.MLWL/CSF/2025-26 Date 26.11.2025

TENDER FOR SELECTION OF COMPANY SECRETARY FIRM FOR PROVIDING ADMINISTRATOR SERVICES FOR DISBURSEMENT OF SHAREVALUE TO MINORITY PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS OF MLWL (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT ONLY)

The Mysore Lamp Works Limited (MLWL) is a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) of Government of Karnataka, which was engaged in **manufacturing and trading of various types of Lamps and Lamp Components. This PSE is not in operation since about 25 years. MLWL intends to engage a reputed Company Secretary Firm for providing Administrator Services for Disbursement of Sharevalue to Minority Public Shareholders of MLWL,** consequent to the Order of Hon'ble NCLT.

Tender Document containing details of eligibility criteria, scope of work and other terms and conditions may be obtained from the website of e-procurement Department, Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of Tenders at **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** is **29.12.2025 at 4.00 p.m.** The Mysore Lamp Works Limited reserves the right to cancel the Tender / reject any or all Proposals without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Sd/- Executive Director

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

No.: CEE/Tr(OP)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/25-26/6530 & 6531 Date: 25.11.2025

KPTCL invites bids for the following:

I. Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/771/Call-2 Date:19.11.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Control Cable of the size 19CoreX2.5Sqmm required for various sub-stations coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, Mysuru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading".

II. Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/770/Call-2 Date:19.11.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Control Cables of the sizes 4CoreX2.5Sqmm, 4CoreX4Sqmm, 4CoreX6Sqmm required for various sub-stations coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, Mysuru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading".

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26.11.2025.** Any other details can be had from the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec)., Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, Mysuru-570007. Telephone: 0821-2455770/2457275.

Murugha Mutt seer, 2 others acquitted in Pocso case

Seer, from Page 1

The seer was arrested and lodged at the Chitradurga district prison in September 2022 following complaints of sexual assault by girls at the mutt-run institution in Mysuru. Later, the case was transferred to Chitradurga and an FIR was registered against the seer on August 26, 2022, under the Pocso Act.

Another FIR followed on October 13, 2022, following a complaint by a cook employed at the mutt, alleging that the seer had sexually assaulted four girls, including her daughters.

A third case was filed later on charges of concealing information about minors living in the mutt premises.

K V Stanley, co-founder of Odanadi Seva Samsthe, Mysuru, who led the legal battle against the seer, told reporters in Mysuru, "Although this verdict is disappointing, we accept it. But the fight for children will continue. This defeat is due to our system. There were huge lapses in the investigation. There were lapses in the government, police department, officials and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)."

He alleged that the children were also threatened.

"Caste, money and religion have all worked here," Stanley said.

He also urged the government to take steps to challenge the district court's verdict in the Karnataka High Court or the Supreme Court.

Odanadi Seva Samsthe director Parashuram said, "We will continue our legal fight after taking the children's opinions. Our efforts to provide justice through legal channels will continue. Although this verdict has been a setback for the advocates for children, the legal battle in the Murugha seer case is not over," he clarified.

6K police for session security

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara said that over 6,000 police personnel will be deployed to ensure security and maintain law and order during the winter session of the state legislature to be held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha from December 8 to 19.

Govt to constitute committee to bring back student polls

DKS says campus elections create leadership

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced on Wednesday the government's plans to reintroduce student elections in the state, which were banned way back in 1989, by forming a committee to suggest the next steps.

Speaking at a Constitution Day event organised by the Karnataka Congress, Shivakumar argued that campus elections create leadership.

"Recently, (Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi wrote a letter to me and Chief Minister (Siddaramaiah) asking us to think about restarting student elections," Shivakumar said. "I'm announcing today that we'll form a small committee and seek a report on this."

Karnataka banned campus elections in 1989 following a few violent incidents, resulting in the disappearance of student bodies affiliated to political parties from colleges.

Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress president, said former student leaders will be "brought together to study the pros and cons" of bringing back campus elections.

"There were many criminal activities taking place back then. We'll see how we can conduct (student) elections by regulating such criminal activities," Shivakumar said.

Shivakumar recalled his days as a student leader in Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College.

"When I was in my final-year degree, I got a ticket because of my political activism," Shivakumar said, referring to his first election in 1985 from the erstwhile Sathnur constituency when he, all of 23, went up against H D Deve Gowda and lost.

"That's how student leadership was at the time. Such leadership has gone today. College elections have stopped," Shivakumar said.

"Many of us came through student leadership. The college election was like a big movement," Shivakumar said. "Leadership used to grow. Leaders were created."

'Word power'

In a loaded political statement, Shivakumar said that "word power is world power", referring to fulfilling promises.

"Keeping our word is the biggest power. Be it a judge, the president, me or anybody else, we must keep our word," he said.

This came amidst speculation that he wants Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to keep his word by making way after the halfway mark of the government.

As part of the Constitution Day, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa launches the 'Constitution is Light' campaign of Prajavani and Deccan Herald, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department. The Printers (Mysore) Pvt Ltd COO Kiran Sundar Rajan, Director K T Sowbhagyalakshmi, Prajavani Executive Editor Ravindra Bhat, and KPCC Vice-President K T Venugopal are seen. DH PHOTO

Minister Mahadevappa launches 'Constitution is Light' campaign

BENGALURU, DHNS: Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa said creating awareness about the Constitution, fundamental rights and duties was necessary to increase citizen participation in a democracy.

Mahadevappa was speaking after launching 'Constitution is Light', a campaign launched by *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani* in association with the Department of Social Welfare.

"There was democracy even when there were no governments. But, as former US President Thomas Jefferson once said, a democracy won't function without the media. *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani* have worked towards strengthening democracy whenever it fell into danger," Mahadevappa said.

He pointed out that Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar ran newspapers "to provide a voice to the people and the voiceless."

The two newspapers - *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani* - have been the voice of the people and the voiceless, and are protecting democracy without misusing freedom of expression, the minister said.

"Democracy is now facing a danger. The Union government is harming the federal system by not treating all states equally. I welcome the 'Constitution is Light' campaign. Citizen participation is necessary for a democracy to become successful," Mahadevappa said.

It was Ambedkar's dream to make India a prosperous, harmonious and fraternal nation, Mahadevappa said. "This can become possible only when all citizens are aware of their rights and responsibilities. In this regard, the 'Constitution is Light' campaign is extremely significant," he said.

Quota in contracts: CM rebukes Muniyappa for criticising HCM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday rebuked his Cabinet colleague K H Muniyappa for openly criticising another minister, Dr H C Mahadevappa (HCM), stating that "Cabinet is a joint responsibility."

Speaking during the Constitution Day programme (The Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949), Siddaramaiah explained that the decision to provide reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in contracts was to economically empower those communities.

This was in response to an earlier comment by Muniyappa - Food and Civil Supplies Minister - that the contract reservation scheme was not being effective due to clubbing of several contracts into one.

When the chief minister commented as such, Muniyappa acknowledged the intentions of the scheme but pointed towards Mahadevappa - Social Welfare Department Minister - for implementational drawbacks.

At this point, Siddaramaiah said: "You are also a minister, you have to set it right. Why are you pointing towards him (Mahadevappa)? Cabinet is a joint responsibility. We point towards someone, they point elsewhere. This way, nothing happens. Did Ambedkar also do that?"

While appreciating Siddaramaiah's decision to introduce the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) that mandates budgetary allocation for SC/STs based on their population, Muniyappa sought a single-window system to streamline the allocation of funds from the SCSP/TSP kitty to help SC/STs get lands and adequate educational opportunities.

Manuvadis undermine Ambedkar's contribution to Constitution: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday accused "Manuvadis" (followers of Hindu law-giver Manu) of undermining Dr B R Ambedkar's contributions in drafting the Indian Constitution, stating that they considered Benegal Narsing Rau's contributions to be more important.

"No country in the world has as much caste and religious system, cultures and languages as our country. For such a society, only Ambedkar could've framed an adequate Constitution. That's why he was the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution. Manuvadis say Ambedkar's role in drafting the Constitution is less, and that others have contributed more. It's not correct."

He accused "Manuvadis" of considering B N Rau's contributions to be more than those of Ambedkar, and accused them of not calling Ambedkar the 'architect of the Constitution.'

Issue will be resolved after talks with Sonia, Rahul: Kharge

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid the ongoing leadership tussle in Karnataka, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said the issue will be resolved after consultations with senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

"We will resolve such issues. The high command — myself, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi — will sit together and deliberate on this. We will sort it out," Kharge told reporters.

Asked about the performance of the Congress government in Karnataka, he said, "Only the people of the state can say how the government is functioning."

Kharge, who travelled to Bengaluru, will return to New Delhi on Thursday evening. He is expected to meet Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on November 28 or 29.

Met Rahul to show him AI computer, says Priyank

BENGALURU, DHNS

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday played down reports that he "carried a message" from top Congress Rahul Gandhi and conveyed it to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

Priyank said he met Rahul to show him KEO (Knowledge-driven, Economical, Open-source), the AI-ready personal computer that was unveiled during the recent Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS).

"Rahul Gandhi was invited for the BTS, but he couldn't make it. I had sought a meeting to show our AI personal computer," Priyank said.

On the leadership issue, Priyank said the high command would decide. Asked about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah insisting on clarity from the high command, Priyank said, "When the time comes, they will do it. The confusion is in the BJP, media. It's not there in Congress."

Priyank said he briefed Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar about his meeting with Rahul and the party's 'vote chori' campaign.

'Buzz on Kharge as CM irrelevant'

Priyank described as "irrelevant" calls by some Congress leaders that his father, the party's national president Mallikarjun Kharge should become the chief minister.

"Whenever elections happen here (in Karnataka), he's in the CM race. Whenever Parliamentary elections happen, he's in the PM race. Such discussions are irrelevant now," Priyank said.

"Kharge himself has spoken on this matter earlier. There is no need to discuss and drag this subject on for long." On Tuesday, Sugar Minister Shivananda Patil described Mallikarjun Kharge as the "most eligible person" for the CM's post.

"I committed a mistake once by not voting for him," Patil rued. Home Minister G Parameshwara told reporters in Vijayapura on Wednesday that "everyone would accept" Kharge as the CM if the high command decided.

Rs 7,280-cr plan to boost rare earth manufacturing

Rare earth, from Page 1

At present, almost all of India's REPM needs are met through imports, China being the main source. Despite possessing the world's fifth largest rare earth reserves, India contributes barely 1% to global production. China enjoys near monopoly accounting for nearly 90% of the global refined magnet production.

This makes global manufacturing vulnerable to China's dominant supply chain. This became evident when China recently put curbs on exports of rare earth magnets amid escalating trade tensions with the United States. It caused global supply chain disruptions, badly impacting automotive and electronics sectors globally, including India.

This incentive scheme, along with the National Critical Mineral Mission announced earlier this year with an outlay Rs 34,300 crore, would significantly help reduce India's dependence on imports to meet the needs of rare earth magnets.

"The proposed support for magnet manufacturing, a segment where India has historically depended on global supply chains, can unlock new opportunities across mining, processing, alloying and advanced materials," said Raju Kumar, Partner and Energy Tax Leader, EY India

Welcoming the move, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) president Shailesh Chandra said the scheme would accelerate adoption of clean mobility solutions and support India's broader sustainability goals.

"By strengthening indigenous manufacturing capabilities, it will contribute to reducing carbon emissions and lowering dependence on crude oil imports, further enhancing the nation's energy security," Chandra, who is also managing director and CEO of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, added.

REPMs are critical to the automotive value chain, particularly for electric drivetrains, motors, sensors and advanced electronics, and are equally vital for renewable energy, aerospace, defence and industrial applications.

"This is a strategic and forward-looking intervention that addresses one of the most critical gaps in the EV and advanced mobility ecosystem," said Vikrampati Singhania, president, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA).

"For the automobile sector, localising rare earth magnets will boost growth for both auto OEMs and component manufacturers, support clean energy powertrains, reduce import dependence, deepen the domestic value chain, and enhance long-term competitiveness," said Stephane Deblaise, CEO, Renault Group India.

"We welcome this vision and look forward to contributing to a robust, future-ready mobility landscape that supports India's sustainable growth and its ambition to become a global automotive hub," Deblaise said.

Make Shivakumar CM...

Vokkaliga, from Page 1

"We and our devotees feel that Shivakumar should become the chief minister after two-and-a-half years. The Congress high command should do that," the pontiff said, adding that the leadership crisis "is not good for a state moving along the path of progress".

The pontiff recalled that there were many Vokkaliga chief ministers in the past. "From the times of K C Reddy and Kengal Hanmanthaiah, H D Deve Gowda, S M Krishna, Sadananda Gowda and H D Kumaraswamy...all ruled the state to take it along the path of progress. Similarly, Shivakumar, who has worked as an honest soldier of the (Congress) party, must get an opportunity," he said.

Karnataka has had seven Vokkaliga chief ministers: K C Reddy, Kengal Hanumanthaiah, Kadidal Manjappa and S M Krishna (Congress), H D Deve Gowda (Janata Dal), H D Kumaraswamy from JD(S) and D V Sadananada Gowda from BJP.

"Shivakumar has never acted against party discipline. He has faced a lot of difficulties alone for the sake of the party's survival and prosperity. All have a feeling that he will become the chief minister, including us. We have confidence that their high command will act as per this feeling," the pontiff said.

DKS reaches out to Satish Jarkiholi

DKS, from Page 1

"We want to protect all our MLAs. We also want to create a parallel party force. That's what we discussed."

Shivakumar also pointed out that he had meetings with Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge. "I am discussing political strategy to strengthen the party. We want to see Rahul Gandhi become the prime minister in 2029," he said, adding that there was no confusion in the party. Asked if he had received any message from Rahul Gandhi, Shivakumar said: "I can't disclose it."

Meanwhile, Satish clarified, "My meeting with Shivakumar was similar to those he has had with other leaders. I harbour no anger."

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
"Ugrana Bhavana", No.43, Primrose Road, Bengaluru - 560025
Phone: 080-29533679, Fax: 080-29533673 email:mdkswc2018@gmail.com
No:KSWC/ADM/09/Veh-Ten/2025-26/1725 Dated: 26.11.2025

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation has invited short-term re-tender from through KPP portal for the procurement of 07 vehicles (AC) required for the head office of the corporation on monthly rental basis for a period of one year from an eligible organization on outsourced basis. The details are as follows.

Calendar of events

Tender No: KSWC/2025-26/SE0109/Call-3	
Tenders submission begins date:	26-11-2025 at 3.00 P.M
Pre tender bid meeting date:	28-11-2025 at 11.30 A.M
The last date for submission of tenders:	10-12-2025 at 5:00 P.M
Date of opening the Technical bid:	11-12-2025 at 5:01 P.M
Date of opening the Financial bid:	12-12-2025 at 11.30 A.M

For more details, the tenderer may refer to e-procurement website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the office helpline +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777. Sd/-
DIPR/CP/4041/CCL/2025-26 Managing Director

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ತೇಗೂರು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು–577 133
Phone: 08262-295347 ಜಾಲತಾಣ: https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in
ಇ ಮೇಲ್:- directorcims2020@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಚಿ.ವೈ.ವಿ.ಸಂ/ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್/257/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:25–11–2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸಿನ ಪ್ರವೇಶಾತಿಗೆ KEA ವತಿಯಿಂದ 106 ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲಿಂಗ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.10.2025 ರಂದು 9 ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಮೆರಿಟ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಭರ್ತಿಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗದೇ ಉಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ 35 ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೀಟುಗಳಿಗೆ KEAಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿ.ಇ.ಟಿ (CET) ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೀಟ್ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಸದರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ KEA ಇಂದ ಸೀಟ್ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸಲೇಶನ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮೆರಿಟ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕವಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ Walk in Admission ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಮೂಲಕ Offline Counselling ನಡೆಸಿ ಸೀಟು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ದಿನಾಂಕ 28–11–2025 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9.00 ರಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 1.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಮೂಲ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

ದಿನಾಂಕ 28–11–2025 ರಂದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲಿಂಗ್ ನಡೆಸಿ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗೆ ಸೀಟು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಸೀಟುಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಮೂಲ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು (original documents) ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಅಂತಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೀಟು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅದೇ ದಿನದಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಡೀನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE TAX RECOVERY OFFICER-1, BENGALURU
Room No.503, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095

AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY UNDER RULE 52 & 56 OF SECOND SCHEDULE OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961

Notice is hereby given that the office of the undersigned has proposed to conduct an auction as per the provisions laid down in the Second Schedule of the Income Tax act, 1961 for the purpose of recovery of Income Tax arrears.

Date & Time of auction	29.12.2025 at 11:00 am
Place of Auction	SANGHAMITRA HALL, 1ST FLOOR, BMTC BUILDING, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE
Name of the Defaulter	M/s Anriya Project Management Services Private Limited
Total Arrears	Rs. 1,09,99,294/- + Poundage fees
Name(s) of the Inspectors authorized to conduct auction	Shri Avinash Kumar Jagyasi, Shri Vinod M

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Property Description: The property comprises of 2 flats namely Flat No. D103 and Flat No. D104 located inside the society "The Orchard" situated at Site No. 24, HMT Main Road, Opposite Main Factory, HMT complex, Peenya Plantation 'B' HMT Complex, Jalahalli, Bangalore – 560013. The neighboring area of the property is residential. The total area of each of the flats is 1358 square feet. The reserve price of each of the flats is fixed at Rs.68,55,450/-

1. For participating in the auction, intended bidders have to deposit a refundable caution deposit of 10,000/- by way of DD favoring Tax Recovery Officer-1, Bangalore on or before 29.12.2025.
2. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the sale being knocked down in his/her favor on the spot, by way of DD favoring Tax Recovery Officer-1, Bangalore and the balance amount within 15 days.
3. For Inspection of the property and any other documents of the property, the intended bidders may contact Ms. M. Bindhu, Tax Recovery Officer-1, Room No.503, 5th floor, BMTC Building, 80 feet Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095 by email: bangalore.tro1@incometax.gov.in. on or before 19.12.2025.
4. Terms and conditions of sale by Public Auction of Immovable property may be obtained from the TRO-1, Bangalore either through e-mail or from the Departmental website www.incometaxindia.gov.in and www.incometaxkaranatakagoa.gov.in on any working day prior to the auction.
5. At any stage of the auction, the Tax Recovery Officer may accept/reject the bid or postpone the auction without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
(M. BINDHU)
Tax Recovery Officer-1,
O/o Pr. Commissioner of Income-tax,
Bengaluru-1, Bengaluru.

Note: The Caution deposit DD for the unsuccessful bidders will be returned on the same day at the place of auction.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division, Opposite to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru - 560 048
No: BECC/EE/DNK/TN/03/2025-26 Date: 26.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The Tenderers shall be registered in CPWD/KPWD /Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. organization.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Hagadur area at Ward No.97, Kadugudi (2nd Call). **Estimate Cost : Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.70,000/-. Category : Others.**
2.	Improvement to roads and drains at Vinayaka layout 1st to 7th Cross Roads in Doddanekundi Ward No.101 (2nd Call). **Estimate Cost : Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.30,000/-. Category : Category 2(A).**
3.	Improvements and Development of Drains at Gunjur near Somashewara Temple in ward no.104 (2nd Call). **Estimate Cost : Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.60,000/-. Category : Others.**
4.	Improvements and Developments of Drains, Roads Prem Brooke layout at Panathur in ward no.105 (2nd Call). **Estimate Cost : Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.60,000/-. Category : Others.**
5.	Improvements to roads and Drains at Ambalipura near A2B Hotel and surrounding areas at ward no. 107 Bellandur. (2nd Call). **Estimate Cost : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.25,000/-. Category : SC.**
6.	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Gandhipura at Ward No.103, Whitefield (2nd Call). **Estimate Cost : Rs. 20.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.25,000/-. Category : Category 2(A).**

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date of submission queries: **04.12.2025 within 2.00 P.M (2)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **11.12.2025 Upto 4:00 P.M. (3)** Date & Time for Opening Technical bid : **12.12.2025 at 4.30 P.M (4)** Date & Time for Opening Financial bid : **15.12.2025 at 4.00 P.M.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division, BECC

Fulfil duties: PM's Constitution Day call

Modi stresses citizens' role in strengthening democracy

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged citizens to fulfil their constitutional duties and contribute meaningfully to building a Viksit Bharat.

In a letter to citizens on Constitution Day, he wrote, "It is our responsibility to fulfil the dreams envisioned by the framers of our Constitution. When we work with this sense of duty, our nation's social and economic progress will multiply manifold," he wrote.

The PM said that while the Constitution guarantees rights, it also entrusts every citizen with duties that must be fulfilled. "These duties form the foundation of a strong democracy. Every action of ours should strengthen the Constitution and further national goals and interests."

He also called on citizens to exercise their right to vote, highlighting that participation in elections is essential for strengthening the democratic fabric. He proposed that schools and colleges mark Constitution Day by honouring first-time voters turning 18, inspiring youth to take pride in their civic responsibilities.

"Our Constitution has given us the right to vote. As citizens, it is our duty to never miss the opportunity to vote in national, state and local elections where we are registered."

Recalling how the Constitution empowered people from modest backgrounds, including himself, to aim high, Modi said it has given "power to dream and the strength to work towards it".

Highlighting the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, Modi emphasised that fulfilling one's duties is essential not only for democracy but also for the nation's social and economic progress.

He recalled the contributions of Rajendra Prasad and BR Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution. Modi said Sardar Patel's visionary leadership ensured the political unification of India.

"It was his courage of conviction that guided our steps to act against Articles 370 and 35(A). The Constitution of India is now fully in force in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

LETTER TO CITIZENS

- Modi urges citizens to uphold duties in building a Viksit Bharat
- Calls on citizens to exercise their right to vote
- Asks schools, colleges to honour first-time voters on Constitution Day

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge during Constitution Day celebrations at Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

PM, Shah 'subverting constitutional principles in calculated manner': Cong

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Congress on Wednesday accused the RSS-BJP of attacking and undermining the Constitution, and said it was being taken forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, "who have been subverting constitutional principles in a calculated manner".

The Opposition party said it was marking Constitution Day as "Samvidhan Bachao Divas" across the country.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge accused the ruling dispensation of damaging institutions and disrespecting the Constitution, claiming its current reverence for them was a mere pretence.

He stressed the need to protect the Constitution's fundamental principles, such as justice, equality, freedom, mutual brotherhood, secularism, and socialism, saying these hallmarks of India were in danger under BJP rule.

Asserting that the Constitution was the protective shield of the poor, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged people to pledge that "we will not allow any attack" on it.

'A sacred promise'

"The Constitution of India is not just a book; it is a sacred promise made to every citizen of the country. A promise that no matter what religion or caste one belongs to, what region one comes from, what language one speaks, whether poor or rich, one will receive equality, respect, and justice," he said in a post on X.

Prez releases Constitution translations in nine languages

NEW DELHI, DHNS: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday released translated versions of the Constitution of India in nine languages to mark Constitution Day.

The languages are Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Bodo, Kashmiri, Telugu, Odia and Assamese.

The initiative seeks to make the Constitution more accessible across linguistic backgrounds and to promote wider awareness of its provisions.

The translations were unveiled at an event commemorating the day the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution in 1949.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Droupadi Murmu described the Constitution as a "living document" that has guided India's democratic journey for more than seven decades.

President Murmu emphasised that enabling more Indians to read the text of the Constitution in their mother tongues strengthens the democratic spirit and deepens public participation in governance.

Releasing the Constitution in multiple regional languages, including Bodo and Kashmiri for the first time, will help bring the foundational document closer to citizens from different linguistic backgrounds, she said.

CJI Surya Kant bats for national judicial policy

Says it will minimise unpredictable verdicts and divergence

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday proposed the idea of a uniform national judicial policy to minimise unpredictable and avoidable divergences in constitutional court rulings.

Chief Justice Surya Kant

Observing that there are 25 high courts and multiple benches of the Supreme Court, the CJI said it is high time to reduce such unpredictability and divergence.

"One constructive way forward can be the evolution of a uniform national judicial policy, an institutional framework that encourages coherence across jurisdictions so that our courts speak with clarity and consistency," Justice Kant said at the Constitution Day function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

He also emphasised the Bar's importance, saying it occupied an indispensable place in fortifying the rule of the law and upholding the sanctity of the Constitution, and only it could rescue the judicial system's "invisible victims".

It was also vital that the Bar collectively took purposeful strides to espouse the letter and spirit of the Constitution. "Your perspectives matter profoundly, and the seriousness with which you engage in your craft directly influences the transmogrification of our constitutional future," he told lawyers.

The CJI noted that the Constitution entrusted its guardianship not to one institution but to a consortium of minds and consciences.

He pointed out that the judiciary repeatedly acknowledged the Bar's invaluable role in safeguarding its virtues.

"When we celebrate the people of India gifting unto themselves their most fundamental covenant, I stand before you and must emphasise that the Bar occupies an indispensable place in fortifying the rule of law and upholding the sanctity of our Constitution," he said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said it was the beauty of the Constitution that the judiciary, executive and legislature were independent of each other, and had a system of internal checks and balances.

SALUTING HEROES

Police officials pay tribute to the martyrs of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack during a programme marking the 17th anniversary of the attack, on Wednesday. PTI

Martyred Agniveer's mom moves HC against denial of benefits

MUMBAI, DHNS: The mother of Agniveer Murali Naik, who was killed in cross-border shelling in Jammu & Kashmir during Operation Sindoor, has moved the Bombay High Court challenging the denial of full death benefits to which a regular soldier's family is entitled.

Murali Naik was killed on May 9 in Poonch when the Pakistan Army resorted to ceasefire violations, launching heavy artillery and mortar attacks, as India launched Operation Sindoor in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The petition said the Agniveers perform the same duties and face the same risks as regular soldiers, yet the families of Agniveers are denied long-term pensionary and welfare benefits. "The Agnipath scheme introduced by the government expressly excludes Agniveers from post-service pension benefits and other long-term welfare entitlements normally available to regular soldiers," it said.

The petition sought directions to ensure equal posthumous benefits, including pensions, institutional recognition, and welfare measures for families of Agniveers who die in service.

'Country with stained record of bigotry': India on Pakistan's Ayodhya remarks

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Wednesday strongly trashed Pakistan's criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisting a saffron flag at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and said the neighbouring country, with a "deeply strained" record of "bigotry" and "repression" of minorities, has no moral standing to lecture others.

"We have seen the reported remarks and reject them with the contempt they deserve. As a country with a deeply stained record of bigotry, repression, and systemic mistreatment of its minorities," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Rather than delivering hypocritical homilies, Pak would do better to turn its gaze inwards and focus on its own abysmal human rights record"

"Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others. Rather than delivering hypocritical homilies, Pakistan would do better to turn its gaze inwards and focus on its own abysmal human rights record," he said.

Modi hoisted the 'Dharma Dhwaj' atop the Ram temple on Tuesday marking completion of its construction.

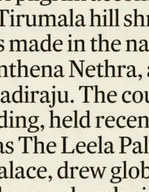
In a statement, the Pakistan foreign office referred to construction of the temple at the site of the Babri mosque, alleging that it is a reflection of pressure on religious minorities in India. Pakistan has noted with "deep concern" the flag hoisting at the 'Ram Temple', constructed on the site of the historic Babri mosque in Ayodhya, it said.

The Pakistan foreign office also called upon the United Nations to play a "constructive role in safeguarding Islamic heritage and ensuring protection of the religious and cultural rights of all minorities".

Bihar govt issues eviction notice to Rabri; RJD opposes move

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

A major showdown is inevitable between the newly elected NDA government in Bihar and the RJD-led Opposition on the eviction order issued to former chief minister Rabri Devi, asking her to vacate her official 10, Circular Road bungalow in Patna and move to another house on 39, Harding Road.



Rabri Devi

The move comes close on the heels of Nitish Kumar assuming the chief-ministership for the fifth term. The notice, issued by the Building Construction Department, has allotted a new house to Rabri Devi, but sources in the RJD on Wednesday said the former CM is unlikely to vacate the house.

"Do whatever the government feels like doing, but Rabri Devi won't vacate the house," said RJD's state president Mangni Lal Mandal.

Mandal, said Rabri was allotted the Circular Road residence in her capacity as the former CM, soon after Nitish became CM in 2005. "She is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and enjoys the Cabinet rank. Besides, another Bihar CM and her husband, Lalu Prasad, too, stays in the same house with other family members for the last 20 years. Under such a backdrop, it's beyond comprehension how the Nitish government can ask Rabri to vacate her house."

"Either the NDA government is jealous of Lalu-Rabri, or the move is just to harass the two former CMs, who have given voice to the poor," he added.

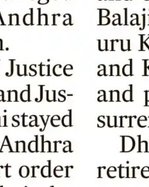
'Guv brands all who don't support BJP as extremists'

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday launched a frontal attack against Governor R N Ravi for his reported remarks that Tamil Nadu was a state that harbours "extremist mindset", saying it has become a habit for the latter to keep branding people who don't support the BJP electorally as extremists.

Stalin alleged that the Governor continues to praise the BJP government that has failed to prevent people from being killed in terrorist attacks in places like Delhi, but cannot stop criticising the DMK government regularly.

The CM's attack on the Governor comes days after the Supreme Court's opinion on the Presidential Reference on the powers of Governors. It also comes at a time when the Governor told a television channel that some elements continue to harbour an extremist mindset in Tamil Nadu and criticised the way "English was being promoted" rather than Tamil.



MK Stalin

Coimbatore Metro

He also utilised the opportunity to tear into Leader of Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami for his comments that a metro network will be built in Coimbatore if the AIADMK is voted to power.

"By such statements, the AIADMK-BJP alliance is confessing that the Centre was not granting permission to build metro networks in Tamil Nadu only because the DMK was in power. As if this is not enough, they appointed someone who hates Tamil Nadu as the Governor," Stalin said.

In his speech in Erode, Stalin said the Governor has alleged that there were law-and-order problems in the state.

"Was it not under the BJP's Union government that the terrorist attack took place in Pahalgam, in which innocent tourists were killed? Was it not under the BJP's Union government that a bomb blast occurred near the Red Fort in Delhi, where many people lost their lives? Is it not under BJP rule that Manipur is burning even today?" the DMK chief asked.

"The Governor's speech, which portrays such Tamils as anti-nationals, deserves strong condemnation. He talks as if everyone who does not vote for the BJP is a terrorist," Stalin added.

GENEROUS ACT

Billionaire donates Rs 9 cr to TTD

HYDERABAD, DHNS

Florida-based Indian American billionaire Mantena Rama Raju on Wednesday donated Rs 9 crore to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for the modernisation of pilgrim accommodation facilities at the Tirumala hill shrine.

The donation was made in the name of his daughter, Manthena Nethra, and son-in-law, Vamsi Gadiraju. The couple's lavish Udaipur wedding, held recently at iconic venues such as The Leela Palace and Jagmandir Island Palace, drew global attention for its grandeur and exclusive guest list. High-profile attendees included Donald Trump Jr, son of US President Donald Trump, along with international celebrities such as Jennifer Lopez and Justin Bieber, and Bollywood actors Hrithik Roshan and Ranveer Singh.

TTD Chairman B R Naidu on Wednesday felicitated Raju at the Padmavathi Guest House in Tirumala, appreciating his generous gesture. He recalled that Raju had earlier donated Rs 16.06 crore to the temple in 2012 and commended his continued support for improving facilities for devotees.

Raju, a healthcare and oncology entrepreneur, is the Chairman and CEO of Ingenus Pharmaceuticals, one of the leading generic drug companies in the United States.

SC shields three accused in Rs 3,500-cr Andhra liquor case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim protection from surrender to three persons accused in the alleged Rs 3,500-crore Andhra Pradesh liquor scam.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi stayed the operation of an Andhra Pradesh High Court order that had cancelled their default bail.

The HC had directed them to surrender before the trial court on November 26 and apply for regular bail.

The top court issued notices to Andhra Pradesh and others on the pleas of Balaji Govindappa, Pellakuru Krishna Mohan Reddy and K Dhanunjaya Reddy, and protected them from surrender till further orders.

Dhanunjaya Reddy is a retired IAS officer and was a secretary in the Chief Minister's Office. Krishna Mohan Reddy was the OSD to then CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka) (Reg.No.DRB-2/SOR/54/2017-18)
Old School of Nursing Building, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-560002. Ph:080-26707727 e-Mail:igotinstitute@gmail.com
No: IGOT/TND/FD/01/2025-26 Date: 26.11.2025

ABSTRACT E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Tender Inviting Authority of Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant, invites e-Tender for the following e-Auction for COMPETITIVE RATE OF INTEREST FOR PLACING SHORT-TERM SURPLUS FUNDS from the eligible tenderers through e-Procurement portal (Two cover system) of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender can be downloaded from	Last Date of Submission of Tender	Date of Pre-Bid	Date of Live Bidding
1	IGOT/TND/FD/01/2025-26	e-Auction for Investment of Surplus Funds through e-portal of Government of Karnataka	27.11.2025 at 4.30 P.M Onwards	12.12.2025 at 4.30 P.M	03.12.2025 at 3.30 P.M	17.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M to 4.30 P.M

The tenderers should submit tenders through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any further amendments can be seen in the e-Portal only.

Sd/- Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Committee, IGOT, Bengaluru-02

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl. No.	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(South-1)	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/2508/2025-26 Dated: 20-11-2025 (Call-3)	1	Rs. 4,46,081/- / Rs. 11,200/-	05-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	08-12-2025 After 4.00 PM
		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/2507/2025-26 Dated: 20-11-2025	2	Rs. 6,92,332/- / Rs. 17,400/-		
		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2509/2025-26 Dated: 20-11-2025 (Call-2) (Reserved for 2A Category)	3	Rs. 85,58,731/- / Rs. 85,600/-		
		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2513/2025-26 Dated: 20-11-2025 (Call-2) (Reserved for SC Category)	4	Rs. 90,83,996/- / Rs. 90,900/-		
		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2514/2025-26 Dated: 20-11-2025 (Call-2) (Reserved for SC Category)	5	Rs. 76,02,553/- / Rs. 76,100/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

2	(East-1)	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/3553/2025-26 Dated: 20-11-2025	1	Rs. 41,41,713/- / Rs. 82,850/-	04-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	06-12-2025 After 5.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

3	(West-1)	BWSSB/EE(West)-1/PB/4683/2025-26 Dated: 26-11-2025	1	Rs. 32,66,047/- / Rs. 65,400/-	04-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	05-12-2025 After 4.30 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/Adverto/4028/2025-26

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

In Bengaluru Police, a credibility crisis

In the last ten months alone, around 124 police personnel in Bengaluru, from constables to IPS officers, have been suspended for crimes ranging from corruption and extortion to robbery, dereliction of duty, and even drug peddling. Yet not a single case has resulted in dismissal or even strong deterrent action. Most officers return to duty after a departmental inquiry, and the cycle of misconduct continues. Recent incidents expose just how deep the rot runs. Two constables in Bengaluru extorted money from an insurance adviser and his client. A constable was involved in the Rs 7.11-crore cash van heist. Another group, including a constable, posed as cybercrime officials, kidnapped BPO managers, and forced them to transfer money. In 2022, even those assigned to the then Chief Minister's security detail were caught selling marijuana.

The problem is not confined to the lower ranks. An inspector, along with five other policemen, allegedly took bribes from criminals – including a drug peddler and a murder suspect – to give them a clean chit. A Deputy Superintendent of Police was arrested for tampering with evidence in the Bitcoin scam. An officer of the ADGP rank was arrested in the PSI recruitment scam. At Parappana Agrahara, the Superintendent of Prison was suspended for granting VVIP treatment and allowing mobile phone access to inmates. More recently, 11 officers were suspended for allegedly collaborating with a gang selling sedative tablets. Such cases are reported beyond Bengaluru too. Two police sub-inspectors in Davangere were arrested for robbing a jeweller of gold worth Rs 7.5 lakh. The list is endless.

A cash-for-posting culture is deepening criminality. Deterrence is the right reform

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G Parameshwara have repeatedly pulled up the police for their misdeeds. The Chief Minister has warned officers against colluding with the real estate mafia, a sector notorious for land-grabbing and extortion, while the Home Minister has publicly criticised police stations turning into "real-estate addas". The persistence of such corruption stems from the long-entrenched "cash-for-posting" culture. Officers pay huge sums to secure lucrative postings and then view the payment as an investment to be recovered through extortion, collusion with the mafia, or by turning a blind eye to crime. This vicious system corrodes the very foundations of law enforcement. While Bengaluru police have earned recognition for solving several major cases, their reputation is increasingly tainted by rogue elements within the force. Police cannot be seen as criminals in uniform. The government must purge habitual offenders, end the cash-for-posting racket, and ensure swift, exemplary punishment. Failure to do so will embolden corrupt policemen to continue their criminality with impunity.

Breakfast at school needs a national rollout

States and Union Territories, including Rajasthan, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Delhi, have made a welcome proposal to the Central government towards adding breakfast to the midday meal scheme, which provides free food to children in anganwadis and lower classes in government schools. There has also been a proposal from states, including Karnataka, to extend the midday meal programme, called the PM Poshan scheme since 2021, to class 12. The recommendation to include breakfast in the scheme is not new. The National Education Policy (NEP) proposed it, noting that a nutritious breakfast would be particularly productive for children. In 2021-22, the Ministry of Education proposed inclusion of breakfast in the PM Poshan scheme, but the Finance Ministry turned it down. The parliamentary standing committee on education has also made a reference to this in a report and said the matter was being pursued.

In terms of health and nutrition as a policy imperative, the midday meal scheme has been one of India's landmark initiatives with a lasting positive impact on millions of children and society. Providing breakfast will expand the scope of the scheme and cover the daily nutritional needs of a vast population of children. The value this proposal brings to millions of poor families in India, which ranks 102nd out of 123 countries in the 2025 World Hunger Index, cannot be overstated. The levels of undernourishment, child stunting, and child wasting are very high in the country. The provision of breakfast to children must be envisioned as a targeted welfare scheme; its outcomes will be more valuable than many sops provided by governments.

Breakfast in the menu can significantly improve nutrition and equity in learning

The Ministry of Education has reportedly estimated that the breakfast proposal would cost about Rs 4,000 crore. This is a negligible budgetary allocation in a country with an annual expenditure of over Rs 50 lakh crore. For this investment, the returns promise to be transformative for future generations and for the country. With the human and physical infrastructure already in place, the proposal is not likely to involve substantial expansion. The governments in Tamil Nadu and Telangana have launched breakfast plans for children. Local bodies, parent-teacher associations and NGOs are running the scheme in Kerala. Karnataka is providing milk, and Andhra Pradesh is providing a ragi malt drink to children, as part of the PM Poshan menu. Considering its takeaways, the breakfast programme needs a national presence and presents a strong case for inclusion in the PM Poshan scheme.

A FOREVER THREAT

Is India becoming the world's chemical graveyard?

Decommissioned plants in Europe are being resurrected in India, risking irreversible fallout for the environment and health

AMEER SHAHUL

Across Europe, as environmental laws tighten and public outrage mounts, ageing and polluting factories are being dismantled — not to be scrapped, but to be shipped halfway across the world. Their destination: India.

Here, under the banners of "technology transfer," "Make in India", and "industrial modernisation", a new kind of pollution colonialism is unfolding. In short, Europe is cleaning up its skies and rivers by exporting its toxicity, while India is accepting these discarded machines as emblems of progress.

A story that has been simmering for years came into sharp focus with one seemingly innocuous deal: the relocation of chemical equipment from a shuttered Italian factory to a new home in Maharashtra. This was no ordinary transaction. It marked the resurrection of a poison Europe itself has declared too dangerous for human proximity — "forever chemicals."

In 2018, Italy shut down one of its most notorious polluters: the Miteni PFAS plant in Vicenza, which had contaminated groundwater across the Veneto region and poisoned more than 350,000 people. The plant's executives were convicted in 2024 for "environmental devastation." PFAS — per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, better known as "forever chemicals" because they never degrade in nature — were its product line. Once in soil or water, PFAS persist for centuries, accumulating in the blood, liver, and tissues of humans and animals alike. They are linked to cancers, infertility, immune disorders, and developmental harm in children.

Italy, horrified by the health fallout after long protests by citizens, moved to phase out PFAS production. An Indian company, Laxmi Organic Industries, saw an opportunity. Through its subsidiary Viva Lifesciences, the company acquired Miteni's decommissioned poison junk and shipped it to Lote Parashuram MIDC, an industrial estate bordering the fragile Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. In 2023, Italy's PFAS ghost came alive under Indian skies. The machinery that poisoned Italian families now operates near the villages and rivers of Maharashtra.

Italy's story is not an isolated one. Across Europe, a slow exodus of dirty industrial infrastructure is underway. Dow Chemical's Stade plant in Germany is dismantling two polymer trains producing polycarbonates — materials linked to toxic emissions and complex waste streams. These are being shipped to the Gujarat-based company Deepak's facility in Dahej, where they will be reassembled and restarted by 2028.

Dow, the world's largest chemical

company, plans to close several major units across Europe under intense regulatory and community pressure: an ethylene cracker in Böhlen, chlor-alkali and vinyl assets in Schkopau, and a siloxanes plant in Barry, UK. British chemical giant INEOS is shutting chemical units in Rheinberg, and Saudi multinational SABIC is closing its Teesside olefins cracker in Redcar, in the northeast of England. These closures reflect a plain truth: Europe no longer wishes to bear the ecological and social cost of these polluting industries.

But these stories don't end with shutdowns. These "stranded assets" are being sold off, piece by piece, to eager buyers in India's chemical heartlands — Dahej, Mangaluru, Visakhapatnam, Panipat, Paradeep. The logic is chillingly simple: what is too dirty for Düsseldorf is good enough for Dahej.

Pollution colonialism

Officials and investors call this economic growth, but beneath this rhetoric lies a dangerous reality: India is trading its environmental and public health future for short-term industrial gains. Europe's stringent environmental norms and carbon pricing make the continued operation of such plants uneconomical. In contrast, India's lax regulatory oversight, weak enforcement, and cheaper land and labour create a haven for pollution arbitrage. The relocation of used reactors, distillation columns, and polymer trains — often described as "brownfield upgrades" — is cloaked in bureaucratic language. The essence, however, remains stark: Europe exports its pollution; India imports its peril.

Among all chemical threats, PFAS stand apart for their permanence and potency. These chemicals are used in non-stick cookware, waterproof fabrics, food packaging, and firefighting foams. Their carbon-fluorine bonds are among the strongest in chemistry, resisting natural degradation. PFAS is now found in rainwater, Arctic snow, and the blood of 97% of humans on Earth.

Once released, they do not disappear — they accumulate and end up in breastmilk and in blood, liver and brain. The production and use of PFAS in India is especially alarming because these chemicals are nearly impossible to contain. Waste discharges from the factories and the aftereffects of their widespread use lead them to the water tables and crop fields. The health impacts can persist for generations and are catastrophic.

By permitting the machinery that devastated Veneto to restart production in Maharashtra, India risks repeating one of Europe's greatest environmental scandals — this time in a larger, more densely populated area.

This isn't just about one plant or one industry. It's about the future we are building. Coastal chemical hubs like Dahej, Paradeep, and Mangaluru are dangerously close to ecologically sensitive zones — estuaries, mangroves, and agricultural lands that sustain millions. If PFAS and other hazardous substances enter our rivers or aquifers, no clean-up technology in the world can reverse the damage. We risk contaminating the food chain, livestock, and groundwater — the invisible arteries of life itself.

Let's not forget: India is already grappling with rising cancer clusters near industrial zones, poisoned rivers like the Periyar and Yamuna, and declining soil fertility. Adding Europe's chemical rejects to this toxic mix is not development; it is self-destruction masquerading as progress.

(The writer is an environmentalist and the author of **Heavy Metal** *and* **Vaccine Nation***)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Letting the sea wash it all away

The sea teaches us that peace follows only when we allow the past to sink

ASHVINI RANJAN

Our cruise ship set sail from Corsica, the rugged and beautiful island that gave the world Napoleon Bonaparte. As the coastline receded, I sat on the balcony of my cabin, gazing at the vast expanse of the Mediterranean. The rhythmic sound of waves against the hull had a strangely meditative quality. My thoughts drifted to the great naval battles that had once churned these same waters, battles that decided the fate of empires.

Having just visited Corsica, I was reminded of the Battle of Trafalgar, a turning point in European history. In 1805, off the coast of Spain, Admiral Lord Nelson faced Napoleon's combined French and Spanish fleets. Against formidable odds, Nelson's strategic genius triumphed, establishing the supremacy of British naval power for more than a century. It was a victory that ended Napoleon's dream of invading England and changed the course of world events.

As I looked out over the calm, shimmering sea, I could not help but marvel at its serenity. Beneath those tranquil blue depths lay the silent remnants of countless naval conflicts, rusted cannons, and the bones of brave sailors as the mute witnesses of history. Yet, on the surface, there was no trace of the bloodshed or destruction that once took place. The sea, in its infinite capacity, had absorbed the violence and healed its wounds.

Wars fought on land, in contrast, have always left behind enduring scars. The battlefields become memorials of suffering; the ruins stand as grim reminders of hatred and loss. Cities bombed into rubble take years, sometimes generations, to rebuild. Even when reconstruction happens, the emotional and psychological debris of war continues to haunt survivors and nations alike. Monuments often keep the wounds open, serving as constant reminders of division, rather than bridges to reconciliation.

As I reflected, an intriguing thought crossed my mind: what if all wars in history had been fought on water? If the seas alone had borne the fury of mankind, all evidence of conflict would have eventually sunk to the ocean floor, out of sight and soon out of mind. The deep waters would have quietly erased every trace of enmity. There would be no bombed cities, no burnt villages, no battlefields to stand upon and rekindle bitterness. Without visible reminders of victory and defeat, perhaps the human heart would have learnt to forgive more easily.

The sea teaches us an enduring lesson: peace is possible only when we allow the past to sink beneath the surface of memory, rather than letting it rise again and again to trouble the present.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Commendable step towards women's safety

Apropos 'Bihar to deploy anti-Romeo squads near schools, colleges' — this decision by Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Samrat Choudhary is most welcome. In a state where roadside urchins and criminals reportedly harass female students with impunity, deploying anti-Romeo squads near educational institutions — even during vacations — is urgently needed. This initiative, modelled on pink patrolling, will strengthen the governance. Other states should emulate Bihar's example and adopt stringent measures against eve-teasing and harassment of women and girls. Kudos to the leaders who championed this effort to protect women from a menace that sometimes ends tragically.
M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Fine-tune the age limit

The Karnataka government has relaxed the minimum age limit from six years to five years and five months in all state curriculum schools for 2025-26. However, children born on June 1st or 2nd still lose an entire year for the sake of one or two days. The Government of Karnataka and the Education Department must extend the deadline by 15 days to one month. This would benefit children who miss the cutoff by just a few days.
Sajjad Ali Shah, Bengaluru

A concerning judgment

The Supreme Court's refusal to interfere with the Delhi High Court's judgment upholding the dismissal of a Christian army officer for defying orders to attend another faith's religious parades raises constitutional concerns. Article 25 grants all persons, including armed forces members, freedom of conscience and to profess their religion, subject to public order, morality, and health. While Article 33 allows Parliament to restrict certain fundamental rights for armed forces to ensure discipline, no law restricts Article 25 rights for service members. Forcing personnel to perform regimental duties against their religious conscience may infringe this fundamental right. The judgment merits reconsideration.
S K Choudhury, Bengaluru

A humbling loss

The Indian cricket team's performance against visiting South Africa is disappointing. While the visitors came fully prepared across all departments, the hosts lacked perseverance and capability. Test cricket demands patient partnerships and devastating spells that can turn matches—qualities this team lacks. Inconsistency has led to frequent batting order changes and dropped catches. Playing a minimum number of Ranji matches and the entire Duleep Trophy should be mandatory for IPL eligibility. The IPL's monetary rewards have encouraged young players to adopt aggressive, quick-fire styles that undermine the patience and technique required for Test cricket.
M P Ramachandran, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

They are making comments unnecessarily. All 140 of us are together. No one can shake us.
D K Shivakumar, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister

Conflict can destroy a team which hasn't spent time learning to deal with it.
Thomas Isgar

TO BE PRECISE

Constitutional duties are the foundation of a strong democracy: PM in a letter to citizens on Constitution Day

IN PERSPECTIVE

Pak's crypto turn should worry India

The gamble risks weakening an already unstable economy and can open new funding avenues for cross-border terror

SHOBHANKITA REDDY AND ANUPAM MANUR

Pakistan is making a big bet on crypto. After years of operating with a contradictory regulatory stance on cryptocurrency, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in September 2025 signalled serious intent to legalise digital assets and withdrew a 2018 directive that banned financial institutions from dealing in crypto. Subject to parliamentary ratification, it also announced its plans to launch a central bank-backed digital currency (CBDC).

But beyond loud announcements and sandbox experiments, any serious crypto adoption by Pakistan is a net negative for both its economy and India's national security. The sudden, desperate overture to integrate cryptocurrency into its economy seems to be an opportunistic gamble aimed at wooing the Trump administration. The SBP unveiled a set of policy proposals that, if approved, would give cryptocurrencies the status of legal tender on November 4, 2024, just a day before the US presidential elections. Pakistan announced the creation of a strategic reserve exclusively focused on Bitcoin, publicly acknowledging Trump's role in this initiative. Furthermore, the partnership between World Liberty Financial, a crypto firm with a 60% stake of the Trump family, and the Pakistan Digital Assets Authority has attracted global controversy.

One outcome of this outreach is that Trump seems to have a favourable stance towards Pakistan in his second term – a marked deviation from US-Pakistan relations in recent years. A potential shift in US policy – hyphenating India and Pakistan and legitimising Pakistan's military establishment – would undermine India's interests in the subcontinent.

Despite the tentative diplomatic wins, deep-seated structural vulnerabilities make Pakistan acutely susceptible to new economic risks introduced by cryptocurrency, without solving many existing ones. Pakistan suffers from chronic fiscal mismanagement, a narrow tax base, low foreign investment, high debt, and heavy reliance on imported energy – it has already been bailed out by the IMF 25 times since 1958.

Cryptocurrency's historical volatility makes using bitcoin as a strategic reserve fundamentally incompatible with the stability mandate of foreign exchange reserves. Reserves are meant to provide a financial safety net against external vulnerabilities such as currency depreciation, increased capital outflows or a drop in exports, and help with the continued ability to import essential commodities.

Accepting crypto as legal tender could lead to de facto dollarisation through currency substitution to dollar-based stablecoins. Residents preferring crypto over the Pakistani Rupee (PKR) would reduce its demand, leading to further currency depreciation, costly imports, and higher inflation. Even if crypto is only restricted to being an investment avenue, the migration of savings from PKR deposits to digital wallets would weaken the Central Bank's monetary policy. Pakistan already has a thriving crypto user base of an estimated two crore users, significantly higher than the 4.2 lakh people who invest in the country's capital markets, making these risks very likely.

Finally, a widespread use of crypto could severely weaken the State's ability to collect tax revenue, impacting provisions of public goods, governance, maintaining law and order, and welfare expenditure. All of these could exacerbate Pakistan's poor socioeconomic indicators, destabilise its society, and raise the risk of sub-conventional warfare against India as a way for the Pakistani State to legitimise itself.

A strategic threat

The greatest concern for India in Pakistan's adoption of crypto lies in how the country's permissive crypto environment could be exploited by its Military-Jihadi Complex (MJC). Cryptocurrency's pseudonymous and borderless nature enables sanctions evasion, funding cross-border terrorism, and money laundering. Hamas and ISKP are already utilising complex crypto networks to circumvent governmental detection. Given that the MJC is functionally intertwined with anti-India outfits, the formalisation of the crypto sector raises concerns about the potential for terror financing against India.

The rise of blockchain-enabled hawala further complicates the tracking of illicit cross-border capital for Indian intelligence agencies. A thriving crypto market in Pakistan, the UAE, and Singapore would pressure India to reconsider its crypto stance domestically to curb illicit capital outflow.

Given that crypto integration into an economy is complex and would require extensive State capacity, Pakistan's push for crypto adoption is likely a matter of temporary flirtation aimed at gaining lobbying power with the Trump administration, with no ability or intent to follow through. As evidenced by the IMF's recent rejection of Pakistan's proposal to subsidise power for bitcoin mining, the country is also unlikely to garner much-needed international institutional support for these experiments.

However, the short-term leverage this move gives Pakistan is a pressing concern for India. India must closely monitor Pakistan's domestic developments in the crypto domain and respond appropriately if crypto integration in the Pakistani economy directly impinges on its interests.

(The writers are researchers at the Takshashila Institution)

Change of guard, politics and the future of Bodoland Accord

DATELINE GUWAHATI

SUMIR KARMAKAR

Since the 2021 elections, the ruling BJP and its allies in Assam have repeatedly showcased the 2020 Bodoland Accord as a major achievement. "By signing the Bodoland Accord in 2020, we ended violence in Bodoland," Home Minister Amit Shah had said on several occasions after the signing of the Accord in New Delhi in January 2020.

The Accord did help restore peace in Bodoland, a region that had witnessed large-scale violence since the 1980s, reportedly resulting in more than 4,000 deaths and widespread destruction. The Bodoland region, comprising five districts in western and northern Assam — Kokrajhar, Baska, Chirang, Udalguri and Tamulpur — with a population of over 31 lakh, has witnessed no major violence since 2020, after members of all four factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) laid down arms and joined the mainstream.

The Accord promised a special package of Rs 1,500 crore over three years for the development of Bodoland, particularly the Bodo community, Assam's largest plains tribal group.

Many members of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) and NDFB, key signatories to the Accord, joined the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL). The party won the 2021 Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections and formed the Council with the BJP as an ally.

UPPL candidates also won seven of the 12 Bodoland Assembly seats in 2021, and the party secured its first Lok Sabha MP (Joyanta Basumatary) from Kokrajhar in 2024. The BJP backed the UPPL's Rwngwra Narzary for the Rajya Sabha as well.

Cut to the 2025 BTC elections: the political landscape shifted dramatically. The BJP not only contested the polls on its own but also re-inducted the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) — UPPL's main rival — into the NDA and the state government after the BPF stormed back to power in the BTC, winning 28 of 40 seats. BPF's return has unsettled the UPPL, although the UPPL remains part of the NDA and the Assam government.

Unresolved issues

The change of guard has strained BJP–UPPL relations and raised questions about the future of the 2020 Bodoland Accord. Concerns deepened when the new BTC chief, BPF president Hagrama Mohilary, said his party was committed only to the 2003 Bodoland Accord.

"It is up to them to implement the 2020 Accord," said Mohilary, who headed the now-disbanded Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) before the 2003 Accord.

Discontent spilt onto the streets on November 20 and 21, when members of ABSU, the Ex-NDFB Welfare Association, and the United Bodo People's Organisation — signatories to the 2020 Accord — held demonstrations at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, blaming the Centre for failing to implement key commitments.

Some major unresolved clauses include the inability to pass the 125th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2019, to enhance the powers of BTC-like autonomous councils; direct funding; increasing BTC constituencies from 40 to 60; granting land rights to tribal communities under the Forest Rights Act; and withdrawal of cases against former NDFB members.

Work completed so far includes strengthening Bodoland University, forming the Bodo-Kachari Welfare Autonomous Council, and including 81 villages from Sonitpur and Biswanath districts within the BTC.

Blame on the Centre and state

Sources within the UPPL claim that only about half of the special package promised in the Accord has been released. The Council, headed by Pramod Boro, former ABSU president, says it struggled to deliver on its commitments primarily because funds were not released. Some Central funds for the BTC are routed through the state government.

UPPL general secretary Raju Kumar Narzary told *DH*: "Any deviation from the commitments may trigger a sense of betrayal and could lead to a return of unrest in Bodoland. The government must implement the Accord with full sincerity."

Asked why the Accord remains only partly implemented despite the UPPL–BJP alliance being in power for nearly five years, Narzary said: "There is a lack of political will on the part of both the Union and state governments."

The ABSU said the government had committed to implementing the Bodo Accord before 2026. Despite more than 12 tripartite review meetings between ABSU, other signatory organisations, the Government of India, and the Government of Assam, at least six key commitments remain unimplemented.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear whether the UPPL will contest the 2026 Assembly elections with the BJP or independently. Both parties will face opposition questions about why the Bodoland Accord has remained unimplemented over the past five years despite tall claims by the Centre and the state.

ABSU and other groups have demanded time-bound implementation of the 2020 Accord to prevent any recurrence of unrest in Bodoland.

- DHNS

A scientist who studied the wild for four decades is working with forest inhabitants to change habits that lead to environmental degradation

Back in the Amazon, dousing its fires

DAVID GELLES

An aerial view of Brazil's Amazon rainforest. FILE PHOTO / AFP

Daniel Nepstad first set fire to the Amazon rainforest in 1985.

He was a young researcher at the time, studying how tropical forests remained so lush, even during the dry season. "I became obsessed with the incredible ability of these forests to endure drought," he said.

After years of experiments, including numerous attempts to intentionally light the Amazon aflame, he arrived at a surprising conclusion: "Forests are pretty hard to burn down."

Much has changed since then.

Thirty years ago, Paragominas was once the largest producer of timber in the world. There were more than 300 sawmills operating as loggers cleared the Amazon for lumber.

Today, most of the sawmills are closed, and bit by bit, the forest is slowly coming back. In 2008, 64% of the county was covered in forest. Today, that figure is up to 68%.

Starting in 1984, Nepstad began his research career on a cattle ranch outside Paragominas called Fazenda Vitória.

The owner of the land, Percio Barros de Lima, raises thousands of cattle on a vast expanse of pastures. Yet in the middle of the property is an island of almost untouched rainforest, just a few square miles of the Amazon as it once was.

It was on this land that Nepstad discovered that the roots of Amazonian trees stretch down more than 20 meters, and that when covered with forest, the land acts like a sponge, retaining moisture that can help it endure lengthy droughts and even some fires.

That led to a series of experiments where Nepstad tried to burn the forest down, sometimes throwing lit cigarettes into piles of leaves on the ground to see if they would ignite. They almost never did — tropical moisture swallowed up the sparks in a matter of minutes.

As climate change has pushed global temperatures to record levels, the Amazon has become increasingly combustible, creating years of rolling environmental crisis.

Persistent heat makes it harder for vegetation to retain moisture, which in turn makes it easier for forests to burn. On top of that, the vast majority of fires in the Amazon are set by humans, particularly by farmers clearing land for agriculture. Fire begets fire.

Last year, a record amount of tropical primary forests burned around the globe, according to the World Economic Forum, five times as much as the prior year's level of forest loss. In the Amazon, fires consumed an area larger than California.

Now Nepstad is returning to the Amazon to try to stop fires in a region that scientists have identified as a crucial bulwark against global warming.

"Fire is the biggest threat to the Amazon, but it's also a problem that's possible to solve," Nepstad said. "This is the biggest climate solution that could happen over the next new year."

Working through his own nonprofit organisation, the Earth Innovation Institute, along with a coalition of other groups, local business leaders and international research groups, Nepstad is trying to encourage small shifts in behaviour that might help stop fires before they begin.

The changes he is asking farmers to make can be modest: planting different crops, letting forests return and pooling resources to afford machinery that can clear land instead of resorting to intentional burns. Yet in the aggregate, he believes these modifications can have a major effect.

On a recent weekend, before his participation in the United Nations climate summit in Belém, Brazil, Nepstad, a tropical ecologist, returned to Paragominas, the city where he began his research 41 years ago.

Nepstad and his team spent days travelling to remote farms with just a few dozen head of cattle and to large ranches with thousands of cows, explaining how different farming practices could reduce the risk of fire and help the land be more resilient when flames arrive.

Fires in Brazil have grown worse in recent years. Last year, they swept across the Pantanal, the world's largest wetlands. After seasonal rains failed to materialise last year, a record number of fires charred the Amazon. Five years earlier, in 2019, another bad fire season consumed vast tracts of land.

All these blazes present myriad challenges. When virgin rainforest burns, it takes a toll on biodiversity. When agricultural land burns, it affects the livelihoods of the more than 40 million people who live in the Amazon.

The fires also release vast quantities of stored carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, accelerating global warming.

This marks a stark reversal of an age-old trend. In recent centuries, the Amazon acted like a filter, absorbing many of the planet-warming emissions from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

But some of this area is no longer a reliable carbon sink. In recent years, parts of the Amazon that have been developed into farmland, including the area where Nepstad started his career, now produce more carbon dioxide than they absorb.

Left unchecked, scientists warn that the loss of the Amazon to fire and deforestation could lead to irreversible changes, leading to much of the forest giving way to grasslands and further accelerating global temperature rise.

"We have had record-breaking fires in the Amazon," said Carlos Nobre, a Brazilian scientist who has spent his career studying the region. If Brazilians aren't able to get the fires under control, Nobre said, "the Amazon will cross the tipping point."

Nepstad set out from Belém at 5 a.m. on a Saturday and started driving south in a pickup truck, crossing the Guamá River as the sun rose.

A century ago, this part of the Amazon was largely untouched. Thick forest covered the nearly half-million square miles that today make up the state of Pará, which sits on the Equator and includes the mouth of the Amazon River.

That all changed in the second half of the 20th century, when the Brazilian government began building a series of highways across the rainforest in a bid to open up land for economic development. And by the late 1970s, more farmers were intentionally setting fires to clear land for agriculture.

After a seven-hour drive through fields of soybeans destined for China, palm trees that will become palm oil and eucalyptus trees that will be turned into paper, Nepstad pulled into the tiny village of Formosa, a poor settlement deep in Amazonian farmland.

For years, the farmers in Formosa and other nearby settlements have intentionally set fires to clear their land for cattle ranching and crops like cassava. But those fires are increasingly difficult to control, and have been escaping and spreading to nearby forests and farms.

Inside a community building, 50 people had gathered to listen to Nepstad and his team pitch their fire prevention plan.

One of Nepstad's partners was Maxiely Scaramussa Bergamin, president of the rural farmers' union. Bergamin spoke about the benefits of growing in-demand crops like acai and cacao. In addition to selling for a premium, these plants can displace cattle and, in turn, help stop intentional fires from spreading.

A team of firefighters addressed the audience, explaining how they could use a new mobile alert system to raise the alarm if they spotted an uncontrolled fire burning nearby.

Finally, Nepstad explained how his history of research had led him to arrive at this singular focus on stopping fires. The goal, he said, was to kick-start a virtuous cycle of farming practices that would reduce wildfires. "If small holders can shift to systems that don't need fire, everybody is better off," he said.

Changing habits in villages like Formosa will take time, but Nepstad says he has confidence that reform is possible.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

When faulty probes derail justice

ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

The Supreme Court's recent decision to acquit Surendra Koli in the final pending case of the 2006 Nithari serial murders — a crime that once shocked the nation — is a stark reminder of the criminal justice system's core threshold: proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

The ruling, delivered on a curative petition, overturned Koli's last conviction and opened the door for his release after nearly two decades in custody. It followed the Court's July 2025 decision upholding the acquittal of both Koli and Moninder Singh Pandher in the other 12 connected cases.

The Bench held that sustaining the remaining conviction would amount to a grave miscarriage of justice, as it rested on evidence the Court had already found structurally unreliable. A conviction, the judges said, cannot be based on "conjecture," especially when "negligence and delay" have compromised the fact-finding process.

The outcome underscores a foundational safeguard: when the state cannot meet its high burden, the presumption of innocence prevails. It also highlights where India's investigative and forensic systems continue to falter.

The principle of granting the "benefit of doubt" is not a loophole but a universal requirement across common law jurisdictions. It is triggered when procedural rules are violated or when evidence handling is compromised — issues that recur in major cases worldwide.

The 1995 O J Simpson murder trial in the United States remains a defining illustration of how lapses in the chain of custody and evidence admissibility can unravel a prosecution. Defence lawyers sowed doubt by exposing inconsistent forensic collection practices and contradictory police testimony, making key evidence legally unreliable.

In India, the 2017 2G spectrum cases demonstrated how difficult it is to link policy decisions to criminal intent without direct, well-documented evidence. The special CBI court acquitted all accused persons, noting that the prosecution relied heavily on circumstantial material that failed to meet the threshold required to prove conspiracy.

Similarly, in the 2017 Aarushi–Hemraj double murder case, the Allahabad High Court granted the Talwars the benefit of doubt after concluding that the initial investigative response had contaminated the crime scene. The compromised environment rendered subsequent forensic and circumstantial evidence inconclusive, collapsing the prosecution's case.

These examples — domestic and international — reveal a pattern: evidentiary failure is rarely accidental. It stems from predictable operational weaknesses such as defective evidence collection, poor documentation, witness attrition, and over-reliance on uncorroborated testimony.

To strengthen the reliability of criminal adjudication, institutions must invest in objective, scientific evidence. A non-negotiable starting point is a strict chain of custody. Every piece of physical or digital evidence must be tracked through a complete, documented trail from crime scene to courtroom. This eliminates suspicion of tampering and protects the credibility of the prosecution.

Equally crucial is forensic independence. India needs well-equipped, professionally staffed, and institutionally autonomous forensic laboratories. Police and prosecutors must receive specialised training in scientific collection, preservation, and courtroom presentation of evidence. As almost every modern crime leaves a digital trace, digital forensics must be integrated into routine investigative practice, supported by specialists capable of handling encrypted data, metadata, and device-level artefacts without compromising evidentiary value.

Another chronic vulnerability is the fragility of human testimony. A robust, consistently enforced Witness Protection Scheme is essential to shield vulnerable witnesses from intimidation — a leading cause of hostile turnarounds and withdrawals that can structurally undermine a case's evidentiary foundation.

India has also seen what successful, science-driven prosecution can achieve. The Nirbhaya gang-rape case (2012) stands as an example where meticulous collection of DNA, corroborative medical examination, and an unbroken chain of evidence allowed the prosecution to meet the highest standards of proof.

While the "benefit of doubt" remains indispensable to prevent wrongful convictions, its repeated invocation in high-profile cases is an unmistakable signal. It points to a persistent gap between investigative practice and the evidentiary standards required in a modern criminal justice system. Without long-term investment in forensic infrastructure, training, and procedural discipline, even the most serious cases will remain vulnerable to collapse.

Ultimately, the lessons of these acquittals converge on a simple truth: reliable procedure is the only reliable path to legal determination of guilt.

(The author is an independent writer)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

Indian envoy shot at in Dacca

New Delhi, November 26
Mr Samar Sen, 61, Indian High Commissioner in Dacca, was shot at by an armed gang of six persons in the commission premises and seriously injured in his right shoulder this morning. As Mr. Sen got down from his car at 9.40 am and was about to enter his office, six young men armed with pistols fired at him. The Indian security guards and the Bangla Desh policemen posted within the High Commission fired at the assailants. Four of the gang were killed and two injured in the exchange. Two security guards sustained minor injuries.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Terror grips tribals as STF gets ready for operations

Kolathur (Salem district), Nov 26
With tears rolling down her cheeks, 40-year-old Lakshmi sobbed: "They picked me up, booted me, applied electric shocks on my privates and raped me repeatedly. All in the name of nabbing Veerappan." The incident occurred eight years ago, but her anger has not subsided. There are hundreds of others who have had the same experience. Nearly a 1,000 tribal men and women today came on to a single platform in Kolathur town to openly air their complaints against the STF's alleged atrocities.

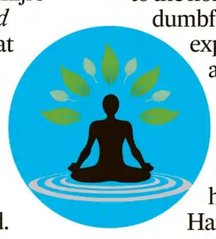
OASIS | SRIPRIYA SATHISH

Presence of mind prevails

Presence of mind and courage in distress are more than armies to procure success. –John Dryden

As the above quote aptly depicts, exhibiting presence of mind in critical situations is like wielding a weapon that can save us from disgrace. Taking sound decisions under pressure, with a calm mind, can go a long way toward tackling difficult circumstances.

Swami Vivekananda is a shining example in this regard. Here is an incident from his life that highlights this exemplary quality. Once, a Christian missionary wanted to show his personal library to Swamiji, with the ulterior motive of demeaning his vision. He asked Swami Vivekananda to comment on the order in which he had arranged the books in his library. Swamiji's eyes searched for the *Srimad Bhagavad Gita*. He found it at the bottom of the book rack, with several other religious books stacked above it.



Swamiji immediately applauded the missionary for the arrangement, leaving the latter bewildered. He explained that it was right on the missionary's part to have kept the *Bhagavad Gita* at the bottom, for if that book were removed, the position of all the other books would be shaken, and they might topple and fall. Swamiji thanked him for giving due importance to the holy book, leaving the missionary dumbfounded. The missionary had expected Swamiji to pick up an argument, but with his presence of mind, Swamiji had averted a bitter situation.

One can cite several instances from our scriptures to highlight this admirable quality. Hanuman, with his extraordinary strength and unruffled calmness, displayed remarkable presence of mind when he decided to lift the Sanjeevani mountain to save the life of Lakshmana, who had fallen unconscious on the battlefield. But for Hanuman's quick thinking, Lakshmana's life would have been in grave danger.

Who can forget the well-known competition between Ganesha and Muruga to go around the world for the divine mango? Ganesha, with his superior wisdom and presence of mind, won the fruit by simply circumambulating his parents and declaring them to be his entire world.

In conclusion, "It is by presence of mind in untried emergencies that the native metal of man is tested." This quote by the American poet James Russell Lowell says it all — that ultimately, the presence of mind prevails.

PLEAS IN COURT: Poll panel defends roll revision, says 99% forms distributed, no clash with local body elections

No need to defer Kerala SIR due to civic polls: EC to SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opposing a petition against the conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Kerala in the midst of local body polls in the state, the Election Commission on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that nearly 99% of voters have been supplied with enumeration forms.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the EC, contended before a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, which is hearing a batch of petitions against the SIR in states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, that there was no need to defer the SIR in Kerala due to the local body election process as the poll body and the state election commission (SEC) were collaborating to complete the exercise.

The SIR process started on November 4 and will go on till December 4. The local body elections are scheduled on December 9 and 11, with the campaigning currently underway.

The EC submitted that it is having meetings with officials and district collectors, and there is no problem as only a small number of BLOs are required (for the SIR) and the commission is not finding any difficulty.

"It is almost over, 99% (enumeration forms) of voters have been distributed. More than 50% have been digitised, so there is no difficulty at all at the level of the SEC and the central election commission," Dwivedi said.

The bench asked the EC counsel to file a separate status report on Kerala and fixed the matter for December 2.

In the case of Tamil Nadu, a senior counsel representing the state, which is also opposing the exercise, said the matter is urgent as the last date for completing the exercise is December 4 and so far, only 50% of the forms have been digitised.

Highlighting the "unrealistic timeline" imposed by the EC, the TN counsel said: "Now there is a cyclone alert in Tamil Nadu."

Another counsel, also appearing for the state, argued that only 50% of the forms returned by the voters have been digitised in the last 22 days.

"We are left with only eight days. Our concern is, what will happen to voters whose forms are not digitised (December 4, last date to digitize), they have to have supplementary draft rules for those left out," the counsel said.

Dwivedi, however, said once forms have been signed and delivered to booth level officers (BLOs), the submissions are deemed to have been done.

In the case of West Bengal, the court said the state election commission and the state government were also at liberty to file their replies by December 1.

Enumeration fuels anxiety in coastal, NRI belts

FROM THE GROUND

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A voter enumeration camp at Vallakadavu in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

REVISION STRAIN

- People fear not just losing voting rights but possible impact on citizenship and benefits
- 2002 voters' list used as base data, causing difficulty for many residents
- BLOs estimate three lakh untraceable voters, cite frequent relocations
- NRIs face poor communication, online glitches
- BLOs say they spend most of their time easing voter anxieties and addressing basic queries

Sixty-seven-year-old Xavier from the Valiyathura coastal area of Thiruvananthapuram was seen frantically scanning the voters' lists at a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration camp in his locality on Tuesday. Unlike other members of his family, he had not received the enumeration form. Another woman from the neighbourhood arrived at the community hall with a similar grievance.

These are not isolated cases in the state. Many residents are anxious, not only about missing their chance to vote, but also about the fear that their citizenship could be affected in the future.

A campaign has been circulating that the SIR exercise is a prelude to citizenship screening, raising concerns that people may even be denied government benefits.

"What will happen if I don't submit the enumeration? Will it affect my citizenship? These are the real concerns that compel many to take part in the SIR process," said Melvin Vinod, a social activist.

Saifuddin Hajji, an activist from nearby Vallakadavu, echoed the same concerns. "We are coordinating with the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of the region and setting up camps where all BLOs will be present. This way, many untraceable voters can be identified," he said. Several residents were struggling to provide details of their predecessors from the 2002 voters' list, which the Election Commission is treating as the base data.

In the NRI belts of central Kerala, scores of houses remain shut as entire families have settled abroad. Typically, most of them show little response to such exercises. However, anxiety over citizenship has prompted many to participate in the enumeration.

"Several NRI families fear losing their citizenship if they fail to complete the SIR process. The hurried manner in which the exercise is being conducted and the demand for details spanning up to three generations are the reasons for this anxiety," said Abraham Mathew, a priest in Thiruvalla, one of Kerala's key NRI pockets.

Indian Overseas Congress Middle East convener Mansoor Palloor said that while many NRIs attempted online enumeration, several were unable to complete it due to technical glitches.

Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Electoral Officer Rathan Kelkar assured that all individual issues related to online enumeration were being addressed through the Election Commission's help desk. So far, 61,194 people have successfully completed online enumeration in the state.

Lack of awareness

A major challenge BLOs face is the lack of public awareness. With local body polls taking place simultaneously, many mistakenly believe the SIR process is linked to the elections.

"We spend most of our time addressing voters' anxieties and clarifying their basic queries," said a BLO in the state capital.

NRC real intent behind SIR: Mamata

KOLKATA, PTI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday claimed NRC was the real intent behind the SIR of electoral rolls.

Mamata Banerjee

Speaking to reporters after garlanding the statue of BR Ambedkar at Red Road on the occasion of Constitution Day, Mamata said the citizenship of people is being questioned after so many years of Independence.

In a post on X earlier in the day, she said that when democracy is at stake, secularism is in an "endangered situation", and federalism is "being bulldozed", people must protect the valuable guidance that the Constitution provides.

Mamata said the Constitution is the backbone of the nation, masterfully weaving together the diversity of India's cultures, languages, and communities.

"Today, on this Constitution Day, I pay my deepest respect and tribute to the great Constitution that we have, to the great document that binds us in India. I also pay my tribute today to the visionary framers of our Constitution, especially Dr BR Ambedkar, its principal architect," she said in a post on X.

26L voters' names in WB not matching with 2002 list: EC

The EC has reported that nearly 26 lakh voters' names in West Bengal's current electoral rolls are not matching with the voter list of 2002, an official said on Wednesday, reports PTI from Kolkata.

The discrepancy emerged after the state's latest voter list was compared with the lists prepared across different states between 2002 and 2006 during the previous SIR exercise, he said.

According to EC sources, more than six crore enumeration forms in West Bengal had been digitised by Wednesday afternoon.

"Initial findings show that the names of around 26 lakh voters in West Bengal cannot yet be reconciled with the data from the last SIR cycle," the official said.

Kharif foodgrain production estimated at 173.3 MT

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Wednesday said that total foodgrain production for the kharif 2025-26 season is estimated at 173.3 million tonnes, up from 169.5 million tonnes a year earlier.

According to the Union Ministry of Agriculture's first advance estimate, the rice production during the kharif season that ended in October reached a record 124.5 million tonnes, up 1.4 % from the previous year, the agriculture ministry said on Wednesday.

Rice production stood at 122.8 million tonnes during the kharif 2024-25 season.

"A record growth is projected in the production of major kharif crops," the ministry said in a statement. "Excessive rainfall in some areas of the country affected crops, but most areas have benefited significantly from a good monsoon, leading to overall good crop growth," Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said.

Sabarimala gold row : Tantris' statements recorded

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The SIT probing the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple gold heist case has recorded the statements of the temple's tantris Kandararu Rajeevaru and Kandararu Mohanaru.

Rajeevaru later told reporters that he obtained the ritualistic permission for only the deity for the maintenance of the gold platings, and didn't know it would be taken outside the temple.

"I have conveyed all that I know to the SIT. Entire details cannot be revealed now. I knew Unnikrishnan Potti (the key accused) as he was working as an assistant to the temple priest. But I was not aware of any wrongdoings by him," Rajeevaru said.

He also said the tantris were involved in the temple's ritual-related matters, and that the TDB was the custodian of all temple valuables.

While Mohanaru was the tantri during the gold coating of the sanctum sanctorum with industrialist Vijay Mallya's sponsorship in 1998-99, Rajeevaru was the tantri while permission was given to carry out maintenance of the coverings of the Dwarapalaka idols in 2019.

Centre approves major rail projects for Gujarat, Maha

CCEA clears Rs 2,781 crore projects to boost Dwarka connectivity

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved two Ministry of Railways projects with a total cost of Rs 2,781 crore, which will also boost connectivity to the Dwarka temple in Gujarat.

The CCEA approved the Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)–Kanalus Doubling project (141 km) and the Badlapur–Karjat 3rd and 4th line project (32 km).

The projects are planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These initiatives will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

The two projects, covering four districts across Maharashtra and Gujarat, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 224 km.

The approved multi-tracking works will enhance connectivity to approximately 585 villages, which have a combined population of about 32 lakh.

The approved doubling from Kanalus to Okha (Devbhumi Dwarka) will provide improved connectivity to the Dwarkadhish temple, facilitating access to a key pilgrimage destination and contributing to the overall development of the Saurashtra region, the statement said.

The Badlapur–Karjat section forms part of the Mumbai suburban corridor. The 3rd and 4th line project will improve connectivity in the suburban region and meet future passenger demand, while also enhancing links to southern India.

"This is an essential route for the transportation of commodities such as coal, salt, containers, cement and POL. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of 18 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). As the Railways is an environment-friendly and energy-efficient mode of transportation, the projects will help achieve climate goals, reduce logistics costs, cut oil imports by 3 crore litres and lower CO2 emissions by 16 crore kg, which is equivalent to the plantation of 64 lakh trees," the statement said.

Sarma eyeing 'fake voters list' for Assam polls: Gogoi

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi at a procession in Nagaon as part of the Constitution Day celebrations on Wednesday.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was trying to prepare a "fake voters' list" by enrolling BJP workers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to win the 2026 Assembly elections, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) chief Gaurav Gogoi alleged on Wednesday.

Gogoi, a Lok Sabha member from Assam and deputy leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, said this during a procession organised in central Assam's Nagaon district on Wednesday as part of the (Constitution Day) celebrations.

"A strong rebellion has already begun against Sarma in various communities, villages, urban youths, and women across Assam. Alarmed by this, he is now frantically preparing a fake voters' list... Representatives in Assam must be elected only by the votes of the people of Assam," Gogoi said.

Special revision

Gogoi's allegation came at a time when the Election Commission was starting a "special revision" of the electoral rolls in poll-bound Assam.

The suspicion about the enrolment of "outsiders" stemmed from a recent statement by Assam Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Goyal, that those coming from other states could also be enrolled in Assam if they removed their names from their home states.

Gogoi, however, said Congress workers were keeping a vigil as the Election Commission's recent moves appear designed to help the BJP form governments through vote manipulation.

"To prevent vote theft, the party is making Block Level Agents and booth committees more vigilant and active."

HC relief to Munambam residents in Waqf land row

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: In a relief to around 610 families from the coastal village of Munambam near Kochi who have been aggrieved over the Waqf Board's claim over their land, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday allowed them to pay land tax.

The state government also acted swiftly, instructing revenue officials to collect the tax.

Many families immediately paid the land tax, which had not been possible since 2021 after the Kerala Waqf Board notified their land as Waqf property.

The Munamban residents' action-council leaders said their 410-day-long stir would continue until their lands were removed from the registry of the Waqf Board.

The fresh relief came in the wake of the October 10 Kerala HC verdict, in which it said the Waqf Board's decision to declare the land in Munambam as Waqf was not legal.

Since the matter was still pending before the Waqf tribunal, the state government could not allow the Munambam residents to pay land tax.

Hence, the residents approached the Kerala HC, seeking a nod for the restoration of their revenue rights on the land.

Considering the residents' plea, the HC on Wednesday directed the state government to accept the tax for the land till a final decision on its ownership was made.

Top court flags trend of verdicts overturned by later benches

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DRAWING THE LINE

- Supreme Court warns against reopening settled rulings under Article 141
- Rejects plea to ease bail conditions for accused in political killing case
- Says reopening verdicts weakens credibility of pronouncements

The Supreme Court on Wednesday flagged a growing trend in the top court in which verdicts pronounced by judges were being overturned by succeeding benches, especially constituted benches, often at the behest of parties aggrieved by earlier rulings.

"The object of Article 141 of the Constitution seems to be this: the pronouncement of a verdict by a bench on a particular issue of law (arising out of the facts involved) should settle the controversy. It has to be followed by all courts as law declared by the Supreme Court," a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih said.

However, if a verdict is reopened simply because a later view appears preferable, the very purpose of Article 141 would be defeated, it added.

The prospect of initiating another round of challenge before a succeeding bench, in the hope that a change in judicial composition will yield a different outcome, would undermine this court's authority and the value of its pronouncements, it said.

It emphasised that a matter which is res integra may not be reopened or revisited; otherwise, consistency in legal interpretation could be compromised, and the special authority vested in this court's decisions under Article 141 would be lost. "The weight and influence of that special authority depend on the credibility we, the judges, give to it. As judges of this court, we are alive to the position that overturning a prior verdict by a later verdict does not necessarily mean that justice is better served," the SC said.

The court rejected a plea by Sk Md Anisur Rahman seeking modification of his bail conditions to permit visits to his hometown, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. He is facing trial for the killing of his political rival in 2019.

CJI to explore virtual hearing

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday explored the possibility of conducting Supreme Court hearings in virtual mode due to severe air pollution, saying he felt unwell when he went for an hour-long walk. The Supreme Court, presently functioning in a hybrid mode, where proceedings are conducted through both physical and virtual modes.

Greens to seek SC review of 2021 Chardham judgment

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

SAVING NATURE

- Move aims to save Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone
- NGOs, prominent citizens to seek a halt to construction of proposed roads through the ESZ
- Proposed construction involves cutting down 9,000 trees, including 6,000 precious deodar trees

Aiming to save the pristine Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone (ESZ), one of the last stretches remaining in the controversial Chardham road project, a group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and prominent citizens is set to approach the Supreme Court seeking a review of its 2021 judgment that, according to them, has proven counterproductive and hazardous to the Himalayan terrain.

The group is being helmed by two nonagenarian politicians — the BJP's Murli Manohar Joshi and the Congress' Dr Karan Singh — with support from the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, key political leaders, and top-level retired bureaucrats and academicians.

The plea is expected to seek a halt to the construction of proposed roads through the ESZ, which involves the cutting down of 9,000 trees, including 6,000 precious deodar trees. The tree-felling is needed for further widening of the road that the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways decided for the Chardham roads, citing defence needs and ignoring its own standards for hill roads. The environmentalists claim such widening is unsuitable for mountain roads.

Over 900 km of roads being built under the project via Himalayan river valleys are meant to ensure all-weather connectivity to Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri.

Following a day-long meeting attended by top RSS leader Krishna Gopal, former Hindutva ideologue K N Govindacharya, and former Congress MP Pradip Tamta, among others, it was decided to petition the top court to review its December 2021 judgment.

"Does securing the country mean destabilising the Himalayas? Can't there be any other way?" asked Joshi in reference to the government's plea for extra-widening of the roads for military needs. "Gadkari ji, please spare the Himalayas," he added Singh, referring to the Union minister Gadkari, who masterminded the Chardham project.

The decision to approach the SC was taken nearly two months after Joshi and Singh, along with more than 80 prominent citizens, wrote to the CJI requesting him to review and recall the December 2021 verdict to prevent "irreparable damage to the Himalayan ecology".

After Vantara probe, wildlife body lifts curbs on animal imports

MUMBAI, DHNS: A UN wildlife trade body has withdrawn its earlier recommendation to restrict India from importing endangered wild animals, a move that had cast a shadow over Anant Ambani's Vantara — a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre in Gujarat.

At a meeting of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Uzbekistan, the standing committee and a majority of member nations endorsed India's position, affirming that no evidence exists to pursue measures against the country on animal imports.

The CITES Secretariat, responsible for reviewing global wildlife compliance, had undertaken a two-day mission to Vantara in September for a detailed inspection of its enclosures, veterinary systems, records, rescue operations and welfare protocols.

In the report submitted to the standing committee on September 30, it recognised Vantara as a world-class, welfare-driven institution.

Earlier, a Supreme Court-appointed SIT probing the affairs of Vantara gave it a clean chit. The SC constituted the SIT in view of allegations of non-compliance with laws and acquisition of animals from India and abroad, particularly elephants.

India examining request to extradite Sheikh Hasina

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Wednesday said it is examining a request by Bangladesh's interim government to extradite former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and asserted that it is committed to ensure the best interests of the people of that country.

Hasina (78) was last week sentenced to death by a special tribunal in Dhaka for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year. She has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year.

SC to examine linguistic minority quota rules

Hearing on medical admission crucial for families in transferable service

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to examine a crucial question concerning the children of defence personnel and central government employees, particularly those seeking medical admissions under linguistic minority quotas.

The matter arose from the case of a NEET-UG 2025 candidate whose mother tongue is Tamil, while her father is a bona fide domicile of Karnataka.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Atul S Chandurkar noted that many defence families face hurdles when applying for state-specific reservations. The court observed that clear legal principles must be laid down to determine the eligibility of linguistic minority candidates affected by mandatory relocations due to government service.

SEAT ROW

- SC takes up case of Tamil Nadu candidate in K'taka
- To examine rules for children of defence personnel and central govt staff
- Such families face hurdles in state-specific reservations
- Petitioner studied Classes 1-10 outside state, Classes 11-12 in K'taka

The candidate's father, a retired Indian Navy surgeon, served the nation for 25 years, during which the family had to relocate frequently owing to the transferable nature of armed forces service.

As a result, the petitioner completed her schooling from Classes 1 to 10 outside Karnataka, before pursuing Classes 11 and 12 within the state. She applied for state counselling under the Tamil Linguistic Minority quota, but her application was rejected by the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA), citing Clause 13 of the E-Information Bulletin 2025.

The clause requires candidates seeking linguistic minority reservation to have completed 10 years of continuous study in Karnataka, from Class 1 through the qualifying examination.

Challenging the rejection, the petitioner moved the SC, arguing that the 10-year continuous study requirement was arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional, particularly when applied to the children of defence personnel.

She contended that such students have no control over their place of schooling, as their residence depends entirely on their parents' postings in national service. The petitioner further submitted that linguistic identity is inherited, not determined by the location of schooling.

The SC has scheduled the matter for detailed hearing on January 13, 2026. The outcome is expected to reshape admission policies affecting the children of defence personnel.

Elderly Muslim cab driver in UP 'forced' to chant Jai Shri Ram

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

An elderly Muslim cab driver was allegedly assaulted by some youths for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' in Uttar Pradesh's Agra.

The matter came to light after a video purportedly showing the incident went viral on social media.

According to police sources, two youths, yet to be identified, approached the driver, identified as Mohammed Raees, a resident of the Shahganj locality, and asked him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

However, when Raees refused to do so, the youths then allegedly threatened him with dire consequences.

"You (driver) will chant the slogan... just wait for three days," the youths were heard telling the cab driver in the video.

Although the incident happened on Monday, it came to light on Wednesday when the video surfaced on social media.

A police complaint was lodged in this connection, sources said. In his complaint, the driver said that he was also assaulted by the youths.

A senior police official in Agra said that efforts were being made to identify the youths, and the CCTV footage from the nearby cameras was being examined.

SC sets up board to explore passive euthanasia for man

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Noida district hospital to constitute a primary board to explore passive euthanasia for a 31-year-old man suffering from 100% disability quadriplegia and who has been in a vegetative state for over a decade, saying his health condition has gone from bad to worse.

Passive euthanasia is the intentional act of letting a patient die by withholding or withdrawing life support or treatment necessary for maintaining life.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan asked the district hospital at Noida in Sector 39 to file its report within two weeks on an application filed by the father of 31-year-old Harish Rana seeking passive euthanasia for him.

This is the second time in as many years that parents of the patient have approached the top court seeking passive euthanasia for their son. On November 8 last year, the SC took note of the Union health ministry report in which it was suggested that the patient would be in home care with assistance from the Uttar Pradesh government and regular visits by doctors.

On Thursday, advocate Rashmi Nandakumar, appearing for the father, said that everything was tried, but nothing seems to be working out.

"Today, what is happening is that he is falling ill quite often and has been taken to the hospital," she said.

On August 20, last year, describing the case as a "very hard one", the top court sought the Centre's response on the plea of the parents of Rana, who was a student of Punjab University and had suffered head injuries after falling from the fourth floor of his paying guest accommodation in 2013.

Junior national player among 2 killed in twin basketball tragedies in Haryana

CHANDIGARH, PTI: A junior national-level basketball player and another teen died in eerily similar accidents during practice in Haryana after the basketball hoop's iron pole fell on them, the twin tragedies putting a spotlight on crumbling sports infrastructure in the state, police said on Wednesday.

While 16-year-old Hardik Rathi, who had taken part in the national sub-junior basketball championship, died in Rohtak on Tuesday, Aman, one year younger, breathed his last on Monday.

The incidents, which came to light on Wednesday, led to outrage with opposition parties slamming the BJP-led state government and anguished family members joining them in blaming the establishment for dilapidated sports infrastructure.

Hardik's death was captured in vivid detail on CCTV cameras. The footage showed the youngster reaching for the hoop. As soon as he attempts to hang from it, the pole collapses and crushes him under it.

The rods supporting the basketball pole were rusted, local players at the Lakhan Majra village who practice with him said. They rushed Hardik to a hospital where he died, SHO Samarjeet Singh said.

Khadak Singh, Hardik's brother, said the condition of the iron pole had been brought to the notice of the officials on multiple occasions but to no avail.

Haryana's Minister of State for Sports Gaurav Gautam told reporters in Ambala that a high-level probe will be held and anyone found responsible for the sad and unfortunate incident will face action.

"We have suspended the district sports officer," he said when asked about Hardik's death.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini told reporters here that he will first gather all the details before commenting on the matter.

On Sunday, Aman went to a basketball court a government school for practice. He was critically injured after an iron pole fell on him and died during treatment on Monday night.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

DUE TO THE EXTREME HEAT, I'LL NEED YOU TO SIGN THIS PREEMPTIVE MEDICAL WAIVER IN CASE I FAINT RIGHT HERE
WHAT?! NO WAY!!
RELAX, I'M JUST KIDDING WITH YOU! YOU'RE ONLY SIGNING FOR THIS PACKAGE!
LUCKY I CARE ENOUGH TO KEEP HIM ON HIS TOES OR HE'D BE TOTALLY BORED!
YOU OKAY, HONEY?
MUST BE THE HEAT!
8-19

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

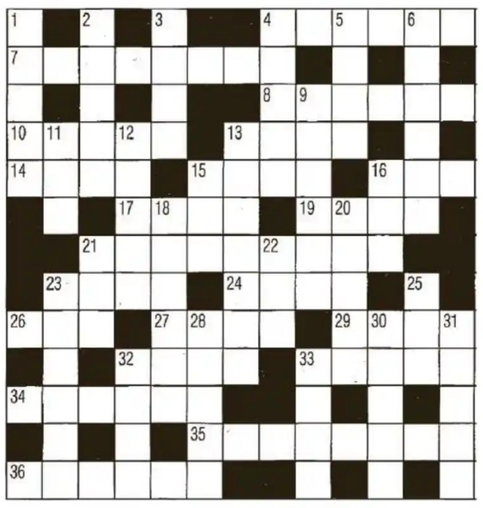
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
KNITTING BOOTIES FOR NEWBORNS AT THE HOSPITAL
I NEED TO GIVE THEM MORE TO DO
MAYBE KNIT ME A NICE GOLF SWEATER?
GREG MORT WALKER 8/6

Peanuts

MOLLY VOLLEY JUST CALLED
SHE SAID THE MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT STARTS TOMORROW
YOU GUYS PLAY "CRYBABY" BOOBIE IN THE FIRST ROUND
"CRYBABY" BOOBIE ?!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12297



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Charge Charlie with getting mixed up in a rebellious cause (6)
7 Investigations of tricky questions, nothing less (8)
8 A spirited sitting (6)
10 Piece of sticky paper (5)
13 Cosy little place in Vine Street (4)
14 Fruit for the bird? (4)
15 Taken all round, is it indiscriminate? (4)
16 Can she hold her guy? (3)
17 What spring lambs do softly on the meadow? (4)
19 Taken off by a copyist? (4)
21 Something to read on the beach? (9)
23 Culinary plant, absolutely fresh (4)
24 Never short of backing, it's true (4)
26 No Yankee way to get a kiss with a model? (3)
27 God's is a piece of sacred land (4)
29 Vehicle with central heating? (4)
32 Are they medium slippery? (4)
33 A Russian name for cloth (5)
34 The unmarried one (6)
35 Trains Pa to become a contender (8)
36 Put a good face on, albeit woodenly (6)

DOWN
1 City source of parts for miniskirts (5)
2 She confronts the king, crying loudly (5)
3 Preserve part of a castle (4)
4 Dunces producing some crass essays (5)
5 Talk of a century by a bowler? (4)
6 Fired for having a drink with the Editor? (6)
9 Run off, like some splashes on a garment (6)
11 It may be on cue for snooker (3)
12 Where Italian mail is sorted for the north (5)
13 Children with sharp teeth? (7)
15 Pop over again (3)
16 For each amount priced (3)
18 Lead to a bizarre consequential conclusion (6)
20 When new they were more valuable (5)
21 But not too young to make a big hit (3)
22 It's a short way from Daventry (3)
23 Airmen all at sea? (6)
25 A measure of underground work? (3)
28 Noted role, easily understood (5)
30 One could sing them in a sari (5)
31 Those falsely termed choppers? (5)
32 Look sideways at part of a dog leg? (4)
33 It could be a spanker! (4)

ACROSS
4 Excellent (6)
7 Circular graph (3,5)
8 Wading birds (6)
10 Splendour (5)
13 Shipshape (4)
14 Implement (4)
15 Bird's beak (4)
16 Offer (3)
17 Small branch (4)
19 Act of lending (4)
21 Person next door (9)
23 Mountain lake (4)
24 Gratuities (4)
26 Thing a spider makes (3)
27 Counterpart (4)
29 Snare (4)
32 This place (4)
33 Stage whisper (5)
34 Time to come (6)
35 Garment with buttons (8)
36 Comment (6)

DOWN
1 Tip over (5)
2 Expression of greeting (5)
3 Talk idly (4)
4 Strength, courage (5)
5 Fortified dessert wine (4)
6 Keep hold of (6)
9 Horse's gait (6)
11 Farm animal (3)
12 Change (5)
13 Nightdress, informally (7)
15 Large (3)
16 Drinks counter (3)
18 Season before spring (6)
20 Expels (5)
21 Arrest (3)
22 Rubbish holder (3)
23 Term of office (6)
25 Roll of banknotes (3)
28 Badly-damaged ship (5)
30 Encircles (5)
31 Small coin (5)
32 Hawaiian dance (4)
33 Appends (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12296

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Ge-t out 7, Hal-F inch 8, T-I-ne 10, Tur-n in 11, Pigeon 14, Eel 16, Curse 17, Does 19, Conan 21, Hunan 22, He-t up 23, Mere 26, Super 28, Mar 29, Tremor 30, Banana 31, Up-as 32, T-witches 33, He-eded.
DOWN: 1, Gutted 2, Opines 3, Then 4, African 5, Inner 6, Sho-N-e 8, Tree 9, Ni-l 12, G-'un 13, Osier 15, Bon-us 18, O-dour 19, Cut 20, Nap 21, Her-O-ics 22, Hem 23, Manage 24, Eras 25, Ela-Ted 26, State 27, Pew-it 28, Map 30, Bush.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Demand 7, External 8, Tune 10, Feeler 11, Iodine 14, Lee 16, Salad 17, Salt 19, Baton 21, Loyal 22, Foyer 23, Cues 26, Colic 28, Ton 29, Uranus 30, Famine 31, Exit 32, Solitude 33, Duster.
DOWN: 1, Drafts 2, Amulet 3, Deer 4, Aerosol 5, Anvil 6, Bleed 8, Tell 9, Nee 12, Dan 13, Naive 15, Layer 18, Abhor 19, Boy 20, Tar 21, Locusts 22, Fin 23, Comics 24, Unit 25, Skewer 26, Curse 27, Ladle 28, Tax 30, Feed.

◆SU-DO-KU-6762◆

9			5				8	3
6	5		3					
				4	1			
		6		1	2			
	4						6	
			6	9		1		
			9	3				
					4		1	7
3	2				6			8

medium

2	5	4	7	6	1	3	8	9
1	3	9	5	8	2	6	4	7
7	6	8	3	9	4	1	5	2
9	4	1	8	7	3	2	6	5
3	8	5	4	2	6	9	7	1
6	7	2	1	5	9	4	3	8
5	9	3	2	4	8	7	1	6
4	2	7	6	1	5	8	9	3
8	1	6	9	3	7	5	2	4

SOLUTION TO 6761

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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S1	U1	A1	O1	T1	H4	R1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
S1	A1	I1	C3	T1	N1	G2	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
T1	A1	O1	R1	N1	P3	T1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
G2	I1	H4	R1	A1	N1	C3	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 180-190
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

R1	I1	S1	K5	I1	E1	R1	RACK 1 =	72
F4	L1	E1	D2	G2	E1	S1	RACK 2 =	62
D2	E1	F4	A1	C3	E1	D2	RACK 3 =	92
P3	A1	R1	O1	N1	Y4	M3	RACK 4 =	64

PAR SCORE 190-200 JUDD'S TOTAL 290

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

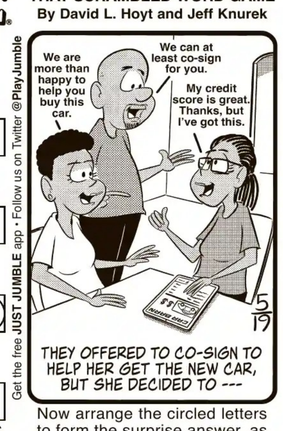
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DROPO

LAGEE

ACNECT

LIAYMF


We are more than happy to help you buy this car.
We can at least co-sign for you.
My credit score is great. Thanks, but I've got this.
THEY OFFERED TO CO-SIGN TO HELP HER GET THE NEW CAR, BUT SHE DECIDED TO ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

◯◯ ◯◯ "◯-◯◯◯◯" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PROOF HEFTY WILLOW FLIGHT
Answer: He was hesitant to join the others tubing on the river, but he did to — GO WITH THE FLOW

HITORI-3216

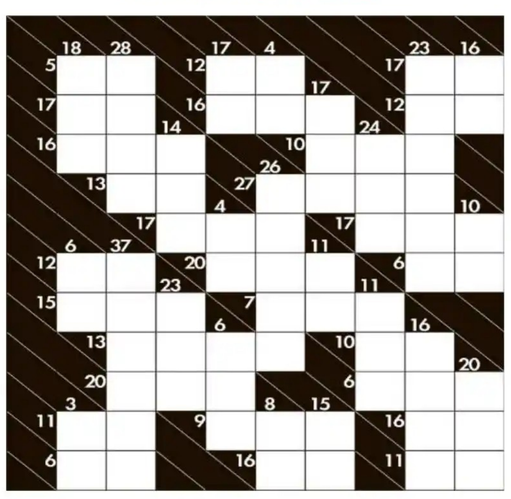
8	8	4	1	8	5	6	7
2	6	5	8	7	4	5	5
2	2	6	5	5	7	8	5
5	7	1	6	3	2	8	4
5	1	8	4	6	8	7	2
4	8	3	5	2	2	5	8
8	5	5	2	8	6	1	8
7	4	8	6	1	5	3	8

SOLUTION TO 3215

3	1	■	5	■	4	2	■
■	5	1	4	6	■	7	2
6	4	■	7	■	8	5	1
4	■	6	■	2	5	1	■
2	7	3	8	5	■	4	6
■	8	2	6	3	1	■	4
1	■	5	■	7	2	6	3
7	2	4	3	■	6	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3216



SOLUTION TO 3215

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3748

7					4			
					2		5	
	9	8			1			3
		7						
		1		6				
3	8	6						
	3							
8		2				1		
		5					2	9

SOLUTION TO 3747

6	1	9	7	2	3	8	4	5
5	2	3	8	4	9	1	6	7
8	4	7	6	5	1	3	2	9
1	9	8	4	3	7	6	5	2
3	6	2	1	9	5	4	7	8
7	5	4	2	6	8	9	1	3
2	3	1	9	7	4	5	8	6
9	8	6	5	1	2	7	3	4
4	7	5	3	8	6	2	9	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Massive high-rise inferno claims 36 lives in Hong Kong

Worst Hong Kong blaze in decades leaves hundreds unaccounted for

HONG KONG, AFP

A huge fire that engulfed a Hong Kong residential estate has killed at least 36 people and left more than 200 unaccounted for, in what is now the city's worst blaze in decades.

The fire, which broke out on Wednesday afternoon and continued burning into the early hours of Thursday, shocked the Chinese financial hub, home to some of the world's tallest and most densely packed apartment towers.

Flames first spread through bamboo scaffolding around several apartment blocks at Wang Fuk Court, a complex of nearly 2,000 flats across eight towers in the northern district of Tai Po. The estate was reportedly undergoing extensive maintenance. On Thursday, city leader John Lee confirmed the death toll had risen to 36, with 279 people still unaccounted for. Twenty-nine people were taken to hospital, seven of them in critical condition.

A 65-year-old resident surnamed Yuen, who has lived on the estate for more than four decades, said many of his neighbours were elderly and had limited mobility. "The windows were closed because of the maintenance. Some people didn't know there was a fire and had to be warned by neighbours calling them," Yuen told AFP. "I'm devastated. There is loss of property and loss of life, and even a firefighter has died."

Nine people died at the scene, and four more—including a 37-year-old firefighter—were certified dead at hospital, the government said earlier.

A police officer at a temporary shelter told AFP it was difficult to determine how many people were missing, as residents continued arriving late into the night to report missing relatives. Charred sections of scaffolding fell from the burning towers, and flames were visible inside flats, sometimes bursting out through windows and lighting up neighbouring buildings with an orange glow.

"The temperature at the scene is very high, and there are some floors we have been unable to reach, though people have requested help. We will keep trying," said Derek Armstrong Chan, the deputy director of fire service operations.

He said the fire likely spread between buildings due to wind and drifting debris, though the cause was still under probe.

Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed condolences to the victims, including "the firefighter who died in the line of duty", according to state media. He urged authorities to make every effort to extinguish the fire and minimise casualties.

City leader Lee said he was "deeply saddened" and that all government departments were helping residents affected by the blaze. A Tai Po resident surnamed So, 57, said the scene was "heartbreaking". "We can only hope that everyone, no matter old or young, can return safely," she added.

Another resident, an apartment owner in his 40s who declined to give his name, said the government needed to support those who had lost their homes. "The fire is not under control. I dare not leave, and I don't know what to do," he said.

Residents were evacuated on large coaches, and local media said nearby blocks were also cleared. Authorities set up a casualty hotline and opened two temporary shelters in local community centres. Sections of a nearby highway were closed for the firefighting operation.

Deadly fires once plagued Hong Kong's densely populated neighbourhoods, but safety standards have improved significantly over recent decades. Even so, the Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims voiced "deep concern" over scaffolding-related fires, noting similar incidents in April, May and October.

A man reacts after claiming his wife is trapped inside Wang Fuk Court during a major fire in Hong Kong's Tai Po area on Wednesday. REUTERS

UNDER RENOVATION

- Wang Fuk Court comprises eight 31-storey tower blocks, and seven were engulfed in the fire
- The estate provides 1,984 flats for about 4,600 residents
- Built in 1983, the towers were undergoing major renovations and were fully wrapped in bamboo scaffolding and construction netting, which allowed the flames to race rapidly up the exterior.
- Some residents reported in local media that fire alarms failed to sound.

Arrest warrant for Thai co-owner of Miss Universe pageant

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: A court in Thailand said Wednesday that it has issued an arrest warrant for a co-owner of the Miss Universe Organisation in connection with a fraud case.

Jakkaphong "Anne" Jakrajutatip was charged with fraud and then released on bail in 2023. She failed to appear as required in a Bangkok court on Tuesday. Since she did not notify the court about her absence, she was deemed to be a flight risk, according to a statement from the Bangkok South District Court. The court rescheduled the hearing for December 26.

Nepal Gen Z youths clash with Oli's supporters

KATHMANDU, PTI: Gen Z youths on Wednesday clashed with CPN-UML cadres in western Nepal during a protest against a politburo member of the ousted prime minister K P Sharma Oli's party, police said.

Gen Z youths were protesting against Mahesh Basnet, who had travelled to Dhangadhi in Kailali district to participate in a programme organised by CPN-UML's youth wing. Police said several Gen Z protesters were injured in the confrontation between youths and Communist Party of Nepal (UM-Leninist) cadres.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

British farmers rally with their tractors at Trafalgar Square, calling on British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves to scrap inheritance tax on family farms, in London on Wednesday. REUTERS

AI helps reunite woman with family after 17 years

▶ A "missing girl" report from over a decade ago, facial recognition software and new AI tools have helped a young Pakistani woman reunite with her family after 17 years, PTI reports from Karachi.

Kiran, who uses a single name, lost her way and forgot her house address after stepping out to buy ice cream in her neighbourhood in Islamabad in 2008. "I was lost and crying. I remember a kind woman taking me to the Edhi Centre in Islamabad as I couldn't remember anything," Kiran, now 27, said here. A few days later, Bilquis Edhi, wife of the late Abdul Sattar Edhi — founder of the Edhi Foundation — took her to Karachi. Since then, Kiran has grown up under Bilquis' care at the Abdul Sattar Edhi shelter home in Karachi. Sabah Faisal Edhi, wife of the foundation's current chairperson, Faisal Edhi, explained that several trips were arranged to Islamabad to trace Kiran's parents, but without success. Earlier this year, the foundation contacted Nabeel Ahmed, a cybersecurity specialist with the Safe City Project in Punjab, an initiative launched by the provincial government in 2018.

Israel strikes targets in West Bank

▶ Israel's military on Wednesday launched a new operation against Palestinian armed groups in the occupied West Bank, where a local governor said that Israeli forces had raided several towns, AFP reports from Tubas.

The Israeli military, police and internal security service said in a joint statement that they had begun "a broad counter-terrorism operation" in the north of the Palestinian territory after they received intelligence about "attempts to establish terrorist strongholds". The military said the operation began with air strikes to isolate the area, which were followed by "searches" on the ground, during which suspects were apprehended and funds were confiscated.

Bolsonaro begins 27-yr sentence for coup attempt

BRASILIA, AP/PTI: Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday began serving his 27-year prison sentence for leading a coup attempt designed to keep him in office after losing the 2022 presidential election — an outcome many in the country doubted would ever result in imprisonment.

Bolsonaro

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has overseen the case, ruled that Bolsonaro will remain at the same federal police headquarters where he has been held since his pre-emptive arrest on Saturday, when he was considered a flight risk.

Brazil's criminal law could also have allowed the 70-year-old to be transferred to a local penitentiary or to a prison room in a military facility in the capital, Brasilia.

The Supreme Court justice noted that Bolsonaro had exhausted all appeals on Monday. His lawyers argued he should be placed under house arrest. The embattled former leader had been under house arrest since August, when de Moraes first raised concerns he might flee. Bolsonaro claimed "hallucinations" led him to break his ankle monitor on Saturday — an explanation de Moraes rejected.

Military's conduct boosted Pak's global stature: Munir

Confrontation with India showcased professionalism of forces: Army chief

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir claimed on Wednesday that the "professionalism" of the armed forces displayed during the conflict with India in May enhanced his country's global stature.

He made the remarks while addressing participants of the National Security Workshop–27 (NSW–27) who visited the General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. The participants received comprehensive briefings on Pakistan's regional and internal security landscape and prevailing national security environment, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the army, said in a statement.

The briefing was followed by an interactive session with Munir, who noted that Pakistan is a country of consequence and is destined to reach its rightful place in the comity of nations.

"The professionalism, resolve, and commitment of the armed forces displayed during Marka-i-Haq (have) enhanced the global stature of Pakistan," Munir said. "Our greatest strength lies in national unity, and together, we shall defeat the nefarious designs of our foes," he said.

The army chief highlighted the fluid regional environment shaped by heightened geopolitical competition, cross-border terrorism, and hybrid threats.

He underscored that despite complex challenges, including externally supported militancy and information-centric warfare, Pakistan's armed forces, intelligence agencies, and law-enforcement institutions continue to demonstrate unwavering professionalism and resolve to safeguard national security.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

At least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft, including US-origin F-16 jets, were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes, according to India's Air Chief Marshal A P Singh.

Indian army personnel stand next to explosives, dropped by a Pakistani drone, on the outskirts of Amritsar. AFP FILE

ASIM MUNIR
Pakistan army chief

"The professionalism, resolve, and commitment of the armed forces displayed during Marka-i-Haq (have) enhanced the global stature of Pakistan.

US envoy coached Putin aide on pitching Ukraine plan to Trump

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

President Donald Trump's chief interlocutor with the Russian government last month advised a senior aide to Vladimir Putin on how the Russian leader should go about pitching the US president on a peace plan aimed at bringing an end to Russia's war in Ukraine, according to a transcript of the call published by Bloomberg News.

Trump envoy Steve Witkoff, according to a transcript of the October 14 call published by the news service, advised Putin's foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov that Putin should call Trump to congratulate him on the Gaza peace deal, say Russia had supported it and that he respects the president as a man of peace.

"From that, it's going to be a really good call," Witkoff said, according to the transcript published by Bloomberg News on Tuesday.

When asked by Russian state media to comment on Bloomberg's report, Ushakov did not question the recordings' authenticity but said that they had not been leaked by Moscow. He also said that the calls had likely been leaked to "hinder" US-Russia ties. "It's unlikely this is being done to improve relations," he said.

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"Witkoff got to sell this to Ukraine. He's got to sell Ukraine to Russia... That's what a deal maker does.

Ushakov also said that he spoke with Witkoff by phone "quite often" but refused to discuss the content of the recording. "The essence of these conversations is that they are confidential. I won't comment. No one should comment."

The Bloomberg report came as Trump on Tuesday said a proposal to end Russia's war in Ukraine has been "fine-tuned" and announced he's sending Witkoff to meet with Putin. The White House did not dispute the veracity of the transcript, and Trump described Witkoff's reported approach to the Russians in the call as "standard" negotiating procedure.

"He's got to sell this to Ukraine. He's got to sell Ukraine to Russia," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to his home in Florida on Tuesday night. "That's what a deal-maker does."

US President Donald Trump looks at Gobble, one of two turkeys he ceremonially pardoned for Thanksgiving, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Sarkozy's conviction upheld

▶ France's top court on Wednesday upheld ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy's conviction for illegal campaign financing of his reelection bid in 2012, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

The decision by the Court of Cassation makes definitive Sarkozy's conviction to a year in prison, half of it suspended, for fraudulently overspending on the failed campaign. Under French law the sentence can be served at home, monitored with an electronic bracelet or other requirements set by a judge. The decision comes just two weeks after Sarkozy's release from prison pending an appeal in another campaign financing case.

Military coup in Guinea-Bissau

▶ Soldiers in Guinea-Bissau appeared on state television saying they had seized power in the country, following reports of gunshots near the presidential palace on Wednesday, three days after national elections were held, AP/PRI reports from Bissau.

"The High Military Command for the reestablishment of national and public order decides to immediately depose the President of the Republic, to suspend, until new orders, all of the institutions of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau," said Dinis N'Tchama, spokesperson for the country's military high command, in a statement.

He said it was in reaction to "the discovery of an ongoing plan" aiming to destabilise the country, adding that "domestic and foreign nationals" attempted to "manipulate electoral results to implement this plan".

33 dead in Thailand floods

BANGKOK, AP/PTI

Severe flooding in southern Thailand has caused at least 33 deaths since the weekend, officials said, as dramatic video footage showed people whose homes were virtually engulfed by water awaiting help on rooftops.

About 1 million households and over 2.7 million people have been impacted by floods in 12 southern provinces triggered by heavy rains, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said Wednesday.

The accumulated rainfall began to decrease on Wednesday and authorities were hopeful water levels would start to recede, but the Meteorological Department issued a warning for heavy rains and flash flooding through Wednesday.

An aerial photo shows flood waters submerging vehicles and houses in Hat Yai, Thailand, on Wednesday. AFP

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Tuesday declared a state of emergency for Songkhla province, which includes southern Thailand's biggest city, Hat Yai, citing the "unprecedented severity" of the flooding that has caused widespread damage.

Streets in Hat Yai were impassable and low-rise buildings and cars were nearly submerged by rising water, trapping thousands of people. Some residents on higher floors were given food baskets, hoisted up from rescue teams in flat-bottom boats.

AMBITIOUS MISSION

North Sea oil field to become EU's first offshore CO_2 storage site

NORTH SEA (DENMARK), AP/PTI

Appearing first as a dot on the horizon, the remote Nini oil field on Europe's rugged North Sea slowly comes into view from a helicopter.

Used for extracting fossil fuels, the field is now getting a second lease of life as a site for permanently storing planet-warming carbon dioxide beneath the seabed.

In a process that almost reverses oil extraction, chemical giant INEOS plans to inject liquefied canbon dioxide deep into depleted oil reservoirs, 1,800 metres below the seabed.

When the project begins commercial operations next year, Greensand is expected to become the European Union's first fully operational offshore canbon dioxide storage site. Environmentalists say carbon capture and storage, also known as CCS, has a role in tackling climate change but should not be used by industries to avoid cutting emissions.

Future plans

Mads Gade, chief executive of INEOS Energy Europe, says the company will initially begin storing 400,000 tonnes of canbon dioxide per year, scaling up to as much as 8 million tonnes annually by 2030.

"Denmark has the potential to actually store more than several hundred years of our own emissions," Gade says. "We are able to create an industry where we can support Europe in actually storing a lot of the canbon dioxide here." Greensand has struck deals with Danish biogas facilities to bury their captured carbon emissions in the Nini field's depleted reservoirs.

A "CO terminal" that will temporarily store the liquefied gas is being built at the Port of Esbjerg, on the western coast of the Jutland peninsula.

Women take part in a protest to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Mexico City on Tuesday. REUTERS

Sensex soars 1,022.50 points on US Fed rate cut hopes

Potential Russia-Ukraine truce talks boost sentiment

MUMBAI, PTI

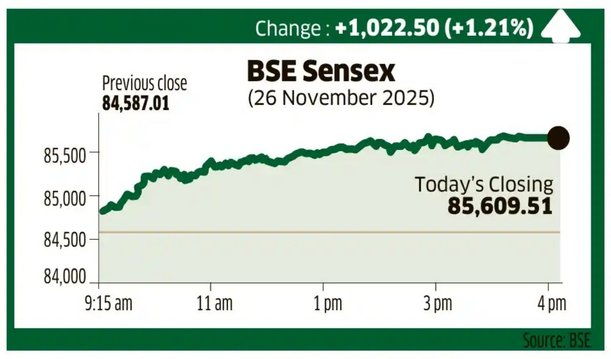
Snapping the three-day falling streak, benchmark Sensex rebounded by 1,022 points, while Nifty reclaimed the 26,000 level on Wednesday on across-the-board buying aided by a rally in global peers amid growing hopes of a US Fed rate cut and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,022.50 points or 1.21% to settle at 85,609.51. During the day, it surged 1,057.18 points or 1.24% to 85,644.19.

The 50-share NSE Nifty zoomed 320.50 points or 1.24% to end at 26,205.30, just 10 points shy of its all time high. In intra-day trade, Nifty rallied 330.35 points or 1.27% to 26,215.15.

Increasing optimism surrounding a potential truce between Russia and Ukraine also bolstered the investor sentiment, experts said.

Among Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Axis Bank, and Infosys were among the major gainers. Bharti Airtel and Asian Paints emerged as the laggards from the pack.



Market participation was broad-based, with metals, energy and IT leading the gains. Mid-cap and small-cap indices also advanced over 1%.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled in positive territory. Kospi surged 2.67%, Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.85% and Hang Seng index climbed 0.13%. Shanghai's SSE Composite index, however, ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading in the green. The US markets ended higher on Tuesday.

"Indian markets staged an impressive rally on Wednesday, with broad-based buying across sectors reflecting the sharp risk-on sentiment in global equities. The upmove was supported by growing expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate cut in December, after the latest US economic releases — including September retail sales and producer price data — signalled softening demand and cooling inflation," Enrich Money CEO Ponmudi R said.

FIIs bought equities worth Rs 785.32 crore on Tuesday, and DIIs also purchased stocks worth Rs 3,912.47 crore, according to exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, went up marginally by 0.03% to $62.50 per barrel.

On Tuesday, the Sensex dropped 313.70 points or 0.37% to settle at 84,587.01. The Nifty declined 74.70 points or 0.29% to 25,884.80.

Safran opens MRO centres for LEAP, Rafale engines in Hyd

PM says with new facilities, India's aviation sector to take new flight

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

French aerospace and defence major Safran on Wednesday inaugurated its largest engine Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities in Hyderabad, dedicated to servicing the Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion (LEAP) and M88 engines. Spread over 45,000 sq metres at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park in the city's SEZ, the centre will ramp up to handle 300 LEAP engine shop visits annually, supporting the rapidly expanding CFM International fleet that powers the Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

Developed with an investment of around Rs 1,300 crore, Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) is the company's first MRO operation by a global engine OEM in India. It will employ over 1,000 technicians and engineers once fully operational by 2035. It is equipped with advanced process and inspection technologies to provide world-class maintenance and repair capabilities for India's commercial aviation ecosystem.

India is now CFM's third-largest market, with five carriers operating over 400 LEAP-powered aircraft and an additional 2,000 engines on order. In addition to the civil aviation MRO centre, Safran has also opened a 5,000 sq-metre facility adjacent to SAESI to service M88 engines that power the Dassault Rafale fighter jet. The new M88 unit will handle maintenance of more than 600 engine modules annually, prioritising the Indian Air Force fleet, while also serving export customers.

PM Narendra Modi joined the launch virtually, while Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu and Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy were present. "From today, India's aviation sector is taking a new flight," Modi said.

Safran CEO Olivier Andriès said the new centres highlight India's growing importance to the company's long-term strategy. "We will triple our revenue in India to exceed 3 billion euros by 2030, with half of it generated from our Indian sites," he added.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy (centre), Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu (second from right), Safran CEO Olivier Andriès (second from left) and others at the inauguration of Safran's MRO facility in Hyderabad on Wednesday. PTI

'Declare Hyd-B'luru stretch Defence, Aerospace Corridor'

HYDERABAD, PTI: Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged PM Narendra Modi to declare the Bengaluru–Hyderabad stretch as a Defence and Aerospace Corridor.

"Telangana has received the Aerospace Award from the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Skill development is a very important criterion for attracting aerospace investments... I am requesting the PM to declare the Bengaluru–Hyderabad stretch as a Defence and Aerospace Corridor," he said.

Reliance JV to invest Rs 98k cr in data centre campus in Vizag

HYDERABAD, DHNS

The proposed data centre announced by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) in Andhra Pradesh is slated to come up in Visakhapatnam. It was on November 14, during the partnership summit, when RIL revealed plans to set up the centre. It is now learnt that Digital Connexion — a JV of RIL, Brookfield and Digital Realty — has signed a formal MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) to establish a world-class, AI-native data-centre campus in Visakhapatnam, firmly placing the coastal city as a hub for hyperscale data centres.

The venture will see a whopping Rs 98,000 crore investment by 2030, which will go into developing 1 GW of data-centre capacity across approximately 400 acres of land during that period, helping it emerge as one of the largest infrastructure commitments in AP's digital roadmap.

US tech giant Google, in collaboration with Adani Group, has already announced setting up a similar 1-GW hyperscale data centre, also in Visakhapatnam, with an investment of $15 billion.

The said landmark project underscores the state's emergence as a leading destination for advanced digital infrastructure and next-generation computing capabilities. The proposed data-centre complex will be purpose-built to meet global standards, featuring high-density AI-ready racks, dedicated power substations, redundant power feeds, and robust connectivity, designed to support hyperscalers, enterprise clients, cloud services, and future AI workloads.

The AP government, through APEDB and relevant departments, will extend full support to the project's seamless execution. This includes facilitating allocation of the 400-acre land parcel, expediting regulatory and environmental clearances, ensuring uninterrupted power supply, connectivity, and other essential infrastructure — all aligned with the government's commitment to high-quality, investor-friendly facilitation, said a senior AP government official.

Beyond infrastructure, the venture is expected to yield substantial socioeconomic benefits, generating employment opportunities, from construction to operations, and through ancillary services and local vendor participation.

No systematic bias in inflation forecasts: RBI Deputy Guv

MUMBAI, PTI: RBI Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta on Wednesday said there is no "systematic bias" in the central bank's inflation forecasting.

In comments that come amid concerns in some quarters on this aspect, Gupta said the Reserve bank of India uses a variety of models and expert discussions to arrive at its inflation forecasts and added that estimates going wrong is a "global phenomenon".

The RBI is also looking to come out with data on balance of payments, a key indicator of the country's external position, on a monthly basis, against the present system of sharing the developments on a quarterly basis, Gupta remarked amid massive shifts in global trade policies.

It can be noted that concerns over inflation forecasting stem from an overestimation of the number, which, critics argue, prevented the RBI from cutting rates further in the last few months.

A rate cut would have been helpful for the economy and possibly lessened the impact of the US tariffs, they contended. "While minimising the forecast errors is equally important, there is no systematic bias in the forecast. It is not that the forecast is biased in any particular way," Gupta said at an event organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation here.

Citing her interactions with colleagues in the RBI's monetary policy department (MPD), Gupta said every estimate has the risk of forecast errors, and there is not a single forecaster who gets it right all the time and went on to term it a "global phenomenon".

The RBI follows a multi-faceted approach to forecast inflation, including deploying proven models, using historical patterns, surveys, and stakeholder consultations, including from ministries and analysts, she pointed out.

Gupta added that the upcoming revisions from MoSPI on the consumer price inflation will be helpful to RBI.

Meanwhile, on the issue of BoP data, Gupta said the RBI has already reduced the lag, by which the quarterly data is released within 60 days from the earlier 90 days and will also be looking at other improvements.

The RBI is trying to reduce the lag further, and also looking to have monthly releases, which may not be as granular as quarterly ones, she said, choosing not to give a timeline by when it will deliver on the promise.

"We are working on the monthly (data release); rationale is to give better and more data," she said, adding that monthly BoP data will come before further reduction in time lag on quarterly data.

Drone-maker Green Jets keen on B'luru unit

BENGALURU, DHNS: On the second day of his UK visit aimed at attracting investments to Karnataka, Industries Minister MB Patil held discussions on Tuesday with leading companies including Green Jets, Nothing, Fido AI, Rhodes Group and MBDA. He assured them that the Karnataka Government would extend full support to their proposed ventures.

At the meeting, Green Jets — known for manufacturing drones, high-performance electric jets and ducted-fan propulsion systems for next-generation aircraft — expressed interest in setting up a manufacturing facility near Bengaluru. Patil said that the state has assured the company of priority allotment of land for the project.

Senior representatives from Fido AI conveyed that the company is seriously considering establishing a manufacturing unit in Karnataka. During discussions with smartphone manufacturer Nothing, the state requested it to set up a production facility in Karnataka. In his interaction with Rhodes Group, a well-known name in advanced engineering, the minister invited the company's senior leadership to visit Karnataka soon.

Bajaj Auto enters e-rickshaw segment with 'Riki'

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's leading three-wheeler manufacturer Bajaj Auto on Wednesday announced its entry into the e-rickshaw category, with the launch of passenger and cargo models with a starting price of Rs 1.91 lakh.

The company will market its e-rickshaw business as Bajaj Riki. "Riki brings Bajaj Auto's trusted 3W engineering and dependability into the electric rickshaw segment at a time when drivers and passengers need dependable solutions," said Samardeep Subandh, President, Intra-City Business Unit, Bajaj Auto Ltd.

"We've brought the best for the industry, the longest range, a monocoque chassis, independent suspension and hydraulic brakes. Riki is engineered to increase driver earnings, enhance passenger safety and comfort, and deliver the reliability India's last-mile ecosystem has waited for," he added.

The company's passenger e-rickshaw model, called 'Bajaj Riki P4005', comes with a 5.4-kWh battery and is priced at Rs 1,90,890 (ex-showroom).

It has also introduced a cargo model called Riki C4005, which is priced at Rs 2,00,876 (ex-showroom).

The e-rickshaw category has expanded rapidly post-Covid, adding over 45,000 vehicles every month, driven by demand for affordable last-mile mobility. E-rickshaws form a significant part of last-mile connectivity feeding Metro, suburban rail, and city bus systems — making reliability and safety essential for both drivers and passengers.

Subandh said the Riki was introduced in Patna, Moradabad, Guwahati, and Raipur on a pilot basis, and will now be expanded to over 100 towns across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Assam in the first phase.

Bengaluru to host investment forum 'CAPITALHQ INDIA' on Dec 2

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ministers and top officials of the Karnataka government are slated to participate in the launch of CAPITALHQ INDIA 2025, a landmark global investment forum, on December 2, at Four Seasons Hotel here. It will play a key role in boosting the state's investment ecosystem.

Staged under the theme, "Global Capital Meets India's Growth Story", the event aims to shape the country's next decade of innovation and redefine how global capital engages with unparalleled investment opportunities at home. Select leaders, investors, policymakers, innovators, and capital pioneers will join to accelerate global conversations, cross-border investments and fuel India's growth trajectory.

Speakers and thought leaders include MB Patil, Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries; Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education; Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT/BT and RDPR; and MLA Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, Chairman of KEONICS; alongside top officials Gaurav Gupta, Dr Manjula N, Seeram Sambasiva Rao, and Dr Mohamed Adil AA. Leading voices, including Naganad Doraiswamy (IdeaSpring Capital), Anil Joshi (Unicorn India Ventures), Shridhar (Pegasus FinInvest), Manoj (SeaFund), among several other prominent investors, will be part of the curated VC line-up.

The gathering will have over 300 high-profile invitees, including VCs, private equity professionals, family offices, sovereign wealth funds, corporate leaders, and visionary entrepreneurs. Meaningful dialogues on transformative sectors such as technology, AI, climate innovation, smart infrastructure, healthcare, FinTech, critical minerals, and the circular economy will converge at the forum.

L&T rebrands data centre biz

BENGALURU, DHNS: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Wednesday announced the rebranding of its data centre business as Larsen & Toubro-Vyoma – a name inspired by the Sanskrit word for 'sky'. The business, launched in 2024, was earlier known as L&T-Cloudfiniti.

"Larsen & Toubro-Vyoma extends L&T's core engineering and manufacturing expertise into the digital economy, with a forward-looking approach to data infrastructure that emphasises scalability, security, sustainability and Responsible AI," a statement said.

"As India's data centre market is projected to grow exponentially over the next few years, Larsen & Toubro-Vyoma embodies our vision to build a trusted ecosystem that supports the nation's digital ambition," L&T Chairman and Managing Director SN Subrahmanyan said.

Jai Shankar Krishnan becomes Independent Director at Zetwerk

BENGALURU, DHNS: Zetwerk Manufacturing Businesses on Wednesday announced the appointment of Jai Shankar Krishnan as an Independent Director to its Board, further strengthening the company's strategic depth as it accelerates global expansion.

Krishnan brings over three decades of leadership across industrial manufacturing, supply chain, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), pharma, life sciences, and diagnostics, with a career spanning Hindustan Unilever, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, and most notably, Danaher Corporation.

Over his career at Danaher, he also drove more than 20 strategic acquisitions, bringing deep expertise in M&A, operational discipline, and value creation, strengths closely aligned with Zetwerk's long-term priorities.

Manipal Hosp strengthens access to quality care for Maldivians

BENGALURU, DHNS: With its sustained collaboration with the Maldivian government-funded Aasandha scheme, Manipal Hospitals has been providing access to Maldivian citizens to avail multi-specialty treatment.

Due to its close proximity and low cost, India has always been preferred by Maldivians in need of advanced medical care. Annually, over 500-600 citizens of the island nation receive specialised treatment at Manipal Hospitals for a diverse range of conditions — from cardiovascular and orthopedic issues to neurological disorders and cancer, the homegrown hospital chain stated.

"Minimally-invasive robotic surgery has emerged as one of the most sought-after services at Manipal Hospitals, helping numerous Maldivian patients with complex spine and orthopedic conditions to successfully regain their mobility and achieve complete recovery within days of the procedure," the statement added.

Also, the hospitals' visa and travel assistance services ensure that international patients have a smooth and hassle-free journey to and from India.

The Aasandha scheme enables Maldivians to access every cutting-edge facility of the hospital at an affordable cost. These include diagnostic services, ICUs, round-the-clock emergency care and the hospital's in-house pharmacy. This year, the hospital has also introduced a new AI-powered health and wellness companion service, allowing patients to choose the most suitable health checkup packages tailored to their individual needs.

"Maldivian patients form an important part of our international patient community," Manipal Hospitals Group Chief Operating Officer Karthik Rajagopal said.

GREEN ROAD

Tesla looks to build charging infra around Indian customer lifestyle

NEW DELHI, PTI

American EV giant Tesla on Wednesday said it aims to build charging infrastructure in India, centred on varied customer lifestyles.

The company, having already established a presence in Delhi and Mumbai, aims to build supercharging infrastructure and also offer home-charging solutions to customers as it looks to expand operations in the country.

Tesla, which has started deliveries of Model Y in India, also noted that customers can recover one-third of the vehicle cost over 4-5 years due to savings in fuel and regular maintenance. The prices of Model Y start from Rs 59.89 lakh in India.

"So the future roadmap will be to have a charging infrastructure to cover all major cities. We always build our infrastructure around the lifestyle of our customers, where they eat, where they work, where they go for staycations," Tesla India General Manager Sharad Agarwal said.

The company on Wednesday launched the first Tesla Center at Orchid Business Park in Gurugram, which will provide all major services: retail, after-sales service, delivery and charging from one centralised location.

Customers can learn about the latest EV technologies, enjoy test drives with Model Y, charge the vehicles with the V4 Superchargers and have after-sales support all in one integrated space, the company stated.

Tesla's Model Y on display at its first Tesla Center in India, in Orchid Business Park, Gurugram, on Wednesday. PTI

Tesla Center is a bigger entity with retail, service, and delivery facilities, as compared with an experience centre, which is mostly into retail operations.

Tesla opened its first experience centre in Mumbai in July, followed by a second experience centre in Delhi at Aerocity in August.

Agarwal noted that the company now has three superchargers functional in Delhi and Mumbai, and is also activating one more in Gurugram.

He said that improving air quality in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, which grapple with severe pollution, requires shifting to electric mobility, adding, "We have delivered more than 8 million cars worldwide, which has helped reduce carbon emissions by 32 million tons. So that's the kind of sustainable future we are talking about."

This is very critical for a country like India, because air quality in cities like Delhi and Mumbai is among the worst, leading to many health issues, he noted.

Tesla follows a direct-to-consumer sales model, which differs from the traditional way vehicles are sold in the market.

The company, which has started deliveries of Model Y in India, is looking to establish its presence across cities and tie up with hotels, etc., to enable charging for visiting guests.

With the upcoming commissioning of the Gurugram charging station soon, Tesla will operate four charging stations across India, equipped with 16 superchargers and 10 destination chargers.

"Tesla's mission is to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy... By building charging infrastructure that fits people's daily lives, we are making electric driving convenient for everyone in India," Agarwal said.

Shringara mushrooms in bloom in the forests of Joida.

Ravanaa, a wild mushroom that grows on anthills, gets its name from 'Ravan', the local term for an anthill. PHOTO BY VINAY PAI

Joida's mushrooms on urban plates

Wild mushrooms sustain tribal communities and enrich local cuisine, even as changing forests and overharvesting put this bounty at risk, writes Pavan Kumar H

With nearly 83% of its geographical area covered by green forests, Joida taluk in Uttara Kannada district is a treasure trove of biodiversity. Throughout the monsoon, several parts of this semi-evergreen forest floor burst with wild mushrooms, locally known as *pava*, offering both food security and income to tribal communities.

For the Gavali and Kunbi communities of Joida, this seasonal abundance of diverse mushrooms is not merely a culinary celebration but a story of survival, tradition and an intimate, reciprocal relationship with the forest. Among the hundreds of mushroom varieties carpeting the undergrowth, the tribes harvest only five edible, protein-rich and medicinally valuable varieties.

Harvesting of mushrooms here begins in March and stretches to mid-October, but this year's prolonged monsoon kept markets of Joida and nearby Dandeli, and the roads connecting them to Goa, busy with mushroom-laden leaf trays till early November.

Once the area receives the first pre-monsoon showers in mid-March, the tribal families head into the jungles of Anshi, Kundal, Nujji and surrounding villages in search of Shringara, a visually striking mushroom in shades of white and yellow. Shringara is among the most beautiful mushrooms available in the region and is sought-after for its delicate texture and mild flavour.

As the monsoon picks up, the tribal communities look for mushroom varieties such as Ravanaa, which grows only on anthills (Locally, 'Ravan' means anthill, giving the mushroom its name); Kutali, prized for its medicinal potency, deep-forest Fidga, a tribal favourite and others.

A majority of the tribal community in the Joida region is dependent on agriculture and with the region receiving between 5,000 mm and 7,000 mm of annual rainfall, cultivation of crops becomes nearly impossible between July and September. Until about five decades ago, the region would be cut off from the mainland for months, forcing tribes to rely on forest produce like tubers and mushrooms to endure the wet season.

A woman sells wild mushrooms by the roadside in Joida.

An assortment of edible wild mushrooms of Joida. PHOTOS BY JAYANAND DEREKAR

"Mushrooms are our staple food during the monsoon as they provide us with the required proteins and keep us warm with their medicinal properties," says Jayanand Derekar, president of the Joida Kunbi Samaj, an association of the tribal community.

He says these mushrooms, which grow only in the wild under specific climatic and habitat conditions, are more than just seasonal ingredients—they serve as indicators of the forest's ecological health and rainfall patterns.

Bammu Phonde from the Gavali tribe knows the cycle like a calendar: "Shringara comes with mild rains and intermittent sunshine. Ravanaa grows only during the peak monsoon and we stop eating it after Ganesh Chaturthi. Kutali and Fidga are treasures found only deep in the forest. Kan requires dead wood logs and moist climate to grow. Any variation in the climate would result in them withering off or turning inedible."

Mushroom trade

Until a decade ago, families collected these mushrooms from the forest only for their consumption. Excess mushrooms were sold casually, packed in just a leaf, by the roadside for those passing by. But the rising demand from Goa, Karwar and other cities for naturally grown mushrooms, which are known for their health value, mushroom trade has now become organised. Villagers now supply carefully packed mushrooms to nearby markets.

These mushrooms have found their way onto the menus of local eco-stays and homestays also. Narasimha Bhat Chapakanda, who runs a homestay near Dandeli, says, "Guests come specifically looking for mushroom dishes. The dishes made from these mushrooms are not only delicious but also healthy. Many of our guests visit us during monsoon just to enjoy these delicacies."

Pava, a traditional dish of the tribal communities, has become one of the most sought-after cuisines in Goa. "The forests of Joida have hundreds of mushroom species and not all of them are edible. Only those knowing about it can distinguish between the edible and the harmful ones," says Jayanand.

He also expresses concern that some people are now extracting this forest treasure in excess.

Mushrooms vanishing

Former faculty member of Sirsi Forestry College, Vinay Pai, has been observing a troubling pattern: some mushrooms, especially Kutali, are becoming scarce. "We do not yet know the exact reasons," he says. "But their decline is a warning."

Erratic rains have disrupted mushroom life cycles. "We cannot grow Shringara, Kutali or Fidga artificially," he says. "If their habitats vanish, so will the traditions built around them."

Mushrooms are sensitive organisms, reacting sharply to changes in rainfall patterns, soil conditions and forest-floor dynamics. Traditional practices like controlled burning of leaf litter to rejuvenate the soil have disappeared. While the forest department has largely restricted this practice to protect the forest, the result is thick, matted vegetation on the forest floor, which, in turn, prevents delicate fungal species from sprouting, Pai adds.

From pagodas to paisa: Coinage of the Mysore Sultanate

Michael Patrao writes how Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan combined local traditions, religious symbolism and political authority in their coins

The reign of Hyder Ali and his successor Tipu Sultan was short, beginning in 1763 when Hyder captured Bednur, the capital of the Ikkeri Nayakas. This marked the foundation of the Mysore Sultanate and the establishment of an independent dominion, which ended with the death of Tipu Sultan in 1799. During this brief period, both Hyder and Tipu issued several coins from various mints, which are today coveted by numismatists.

The *bahaduri pagoda*, a gold coin issued by Hyder Ali, was produced between 1763 and 1782, and circulated extensively. Each coin weighed around 3.4 grams with a diameter of 1.3 cm. Its obverse depicted Shiva and Parvati, an adaptation of the *pagoda* coinage of the Ikkeri Nayakas. Shiva held a trident (*trishul*) and a deer, with the sun and moon symbols above. The reverse showed the Persian letter *He* (pronounced *hay*, the initial of Haidar Ali) on a granulated background.

Hyder Ali was known for adopting the existing local coinage rather than creating entirely new types. The name *bahaduri* was derived from the title *Hyder Ali Khan Bahadur*, bestowed on him by Salabat Jung. The motif on the *bahaduri pagoda* was borrowed from the *pagoda* struck in the 16th century by Sadashiva Nayak, the first Raja of Ikkeri/Bednur. In fact, Sadashiva Nayak had imitated the *pagoda* of Sadasivaraya of Vijayanagara.

Hyder's *half-pagodas* were of two types: one portraying seated Shiva–Parvati and the other depicting Vishnu, the latter typologically similar to the gold coins of Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara.

Hyder Ali also issued gold *panams* (*fanams*), small coins weighing around 0.38 gram. They were divided into three groups based on their obverse motifs. One was the *bahaduri pagoda* type with Shiva-Parvati motif. The second had a stylised lion motif of *viraraya panam* type and the third was *Hijri*-dated type.

Hyder Ali followed a pragmatic approach to currency, adopting existing local coinage patterns with minor modifications. This included the continued use of traditional Hindu imagery on his gold coins, to ensure their acceptance by the people and continuity in trade.

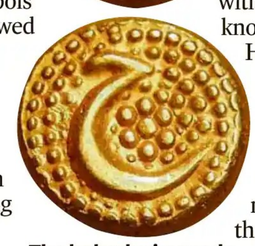
The copper *paisas* with elephant motifs on the obverse were struck at Srirangapatnam during the last two years of Hyder's reign. They later became the model for Tipu Sultan's extensive copper coin series.

Tipu Sultan's coins

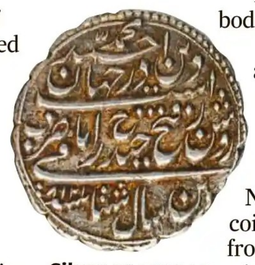
Tipu Sultan also issued numerous coins from 12 mints, including versions of the *bahaduri pagoda*, continuing the style of the Ikkeri Nayaka coinage with minor modifications. His coinage in gold, silver and copper existed in far greater variety and quantity than that of his father.

The entire coinage of Tipu Sultan (1783-1799) was divided into the *Hijri* era (1783-1786), the Pre-third Mysore war issues (1787-1790), and the third Mysore war and the latter issues (1790-1799).

During the *Hijri* phase, higher denominations like a *hamadi*, *pagoda*, double-*rupee* and *rupee* were issued from Pattan and Nagar mints. Calicut issued only gold *panams*.



The bahaduri pagoda gold coin.



Silver one rupee coin of Tipu era.

In the second phase, the monetary history of Tipu began with a new dating system known as *Mauludi* Era. He also established more mints, increasing their number to twelve stretching from Dharwar (Dharwad) in the north to Dindigul in the south. The coins were named after *Imams*, the spiritual leaders, and celestial bodies.

The third phase saw a sharp decline in minting after Tipu lost several territories to the British, Marathas and the Nizam. Gold and silver coins were mainly issued from Srirangapatna, with limited production at Nagar and Gooty.

Tipu chose mint towns based on their military or political importance, often giving them invented Persian names.

Gold coinage

Tipu's gold coinage included four denominations: *ahmadi* (equivalent to four *pagodas* and named after the Prophet); *sadiqi* (equivalent to two *pagodas* and named after Caliph Abu Bakr Sadiq); faruqi (*pagoda* and named after Caliph Omar Faruqi), and *panam*, a small gold coin without inscriptions, widely circulated in South India. He issued seven silver coins including the *haideri* and *khizri* each named after an *Imam* or Islamic saint.

His copper coins, issued in five values featured Arabic letters and elephant motifs. Each denomination bore the name of a planet or star—Jupiter (*Al mushtari*), Venus (*Zohra*), Mars (*Bahnim*), star (*Akhtar*) and Pole Star (*Qutb*).

Tipu Sultan's monetary system is a distinctive blend of Islamic devotion, astronomical symbolism and political authority, reflected in a coinage that remains among the most studied in South Indian history.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Akka Pade: Where safety finds a sister

An initiative that began in Bidar, Akka Pade is now a state-backed blueprint for women safety and support, writes Shashikanth S Shembelli

Two years ago, when a small group of women police personnel in Bidar began donning a distinct uniform and stepping out in a specially marked vehicle, not many imagined they would one day shape a statewide movement. On November 28, the state is set to adopt this homegrown initiative—Akka Pade (Akka Force)—as a standard model to prevent violence against women and children and provide immediate support.

What began as a district-level experiment is now being hailed as a turning point in community policing.

Akka Pade is a special force comprising women police personnel. Unlike regular patrol teams, its members visit various public places, speaking to students about the ill-effects of child marriage, sexual abuse, the POCSO Act, substance abuse and cyber traps. Working closely with the Women and Child Development Department, the team conducts interactive sessions rather than formal lectures, and provides free legal aid and counselling in cases related to domestic violence and POCSO.

Their 24/7 patrol routes cover bus stands, schools, colleges, parks, libraries, hostels and other crowded public spaces, driven by a simple belief: visibility builds trust. Head constable Ambika Metre, a member of Akka Pade, explains: "We have a WhatsApp group where we share daily updates on our activities. Our SP monitors it and offers guidance. Once a month, the SP meets Akka Pade staff to discuss issues faced by women and the challenges faced by our team, and provides solutions."

Members of the Akka Pade create awareness at a school in Bidar; The team celebrates after their 300 km bike rally. DH PHOTOS

And the results, officers say, have been encouraging. Incidents of child marriage and sexual violence have dipped to some extent, more people are calling child helplines and seeking legal aid, and drug peddling is slowly tapering. "I was fed up with the constant eve-teasing from a group of youths on my way home from work. They ignored every warning. But ever since Akka Pade began patrolling, they have disappeared," said a 23-year-old woman, requesting anonymity.

The brain behind this initiative in Bidar was the then Superintendent of Police Chennabasavanna S L, now Director of the Karnataka Police Academy in Mysuru. At a time when Karnataka already had all-women units such as Durga Pade and Channamma Pade, their effectiveness was limited by undefined roles, reducing them to routine policing. Bidar was no exception, until Chennabasavanna called for a transformational shift.

He gathered data on all women police personnel in the district, selected those with a flair for fieldwork and communication, and trained them through resource persons to carry out the task in a responsible way. Thus, in September 2023, Akka Pade was born.

The name honours the legacy of 12th century social reformer Akkamahadevi, a figure deeply embedded in Bidar's culture. "The idea of an Akka, an elder sister, felt natural," Chennabasavanna recalls. "Girls needed someone they could approach without hesitation," he said.

Origin of the force

The origins of Akka Pade lie far from Bidar, in the conflict-scarred plains of South Sudan, where Chennabasavanna was sent as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force. There, he saw the challenges of maintaining peace and order as well as steps taken to prevent sexual harassment against girls amid ethnic strife. "There, the peacekeeping teams used targeted patrolling, trust-building and constant conversation with communities. Those methods stayed with me," he recalls. He also worked closely with Doreen Malambo, a UN award-winning police officer from Zambia, observing their community-centric strategies to prevent violence against girls.

Back in Bidar, he noticed that women police personnel seldom received field duties, limiting their impact. This insight combined with leadership workshops, streaming of inspiring lectures by Malambo and a 300-km bike rally paved the way for Akka Pade.

Current Bidar SP Pradeep Gunti calls Akka Pade's expansion a matter of pride. "We have now expanded Akka Pade across the district and strengthened it further," he said.

Minister for Women and Child Development Lakshmi Hebbalkar describes it as a revolutionary initiative for women safety. She said that under the state rollout, Akka Pade will patrol schools, colleges, malls and public places. A dedicated helpline will assist girls in distress and the force along with regular police personnel and NCC to widen its outreach.

(Translated from Kannada by Vittal Shastri)

India's biggest losses (by runs) in Tests

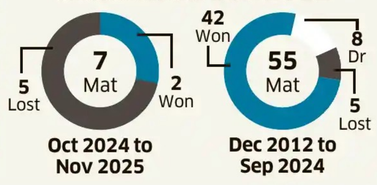
408 runs vs SA Guwahati 2025	**342** runs vs Aus Nagpur 2004	**341** runs vs Pak Karachi 2006	**337** runs vs Aus Melbourne 2007

HITTING THE DEPTHS

India being whitewashed in a Test series at home

Year	Vs	Result
2000	South Africa	Lost 0-2
2024	New Zealand	Lost 0-3
2025	South Africa	Lost 0-2

India's record in Tests at home since Dec 2012



TRIVIA

■ No **Indian batter** scored a hundred in the Test series against South Africa. It was only the third time no Indian batter had scored a hundred in a Test series at home. Earlier instances were in the 3-Test series against **New Zealand** in 1969/70 and 1995/96.

■ No Indian spinner took a **5-wicket haul** in the Test series against South Africa. The only other time no Indian spinner had taken a 5-wicket haul in a home Test series against South Africa was in **1996-97**.

■ **Aiden Markram** took **9 catches** in the Guwahati Test establishing a record for the most catches taken by a fielder in a Test match; bettering the previous record held by **Ajinkya Rahane**, who had taken 8 catches against Sri Lanka at Galle in 2015.

Compiled by **Arun Gopalakrishnan**

CRICKET: Hosts suffer a massive 408-run defeat against South Africa to be blanked 2-0

India left 'Harmer'ed and humiliated

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

As South Africa broke into ecstatic celebrations after posting a 408-run win to end their 25-year duck on Indian soil, the statisticians had their hands full. Biggest defeat for India in terms of runs both home and away, second series sweep by a visiting team in successive seasons, fifth loss in the last seven Tests at home as opposed to 50 Tests across 13 seasons for their previous five defeats... The list was endless and humiliation unquantifiable.

The abject surrender on a good Test pitch, added another sordid chapter to India's dwindling fortunes in the traditional format under Head Coach Gautam Gambhir's reign.

Not much hope was left of levelling the series after South Africa had left India's second innings reeling at 27/2 on the fourth evening.

Staring at a 522-run deficit, the hosts faced a Herculean task of saving the match on the final day, and while another home defeat was a bitter pill to swallow, the manner of the defeat was hard to digest. Chasing a target of 549, India's innings came to a stuttering halt well before lunch (the second session in this Test) at 140 all out in 63.5 overs here at the ACA Stadium on Wednesday.

The 2-0 win helped the Proteas clinch a Test series in India after a gap of 25 years in 2000 when Hansie Cronje's men handed Sachin Tendulkar's men a similar defeat.

Only Ravindra Jadeja (54) looked the part till he lasted while Washington Sundar was the second highest run-getter with 16, the same number of runs that extras contributed to their total. India's second innings lasted all of 266 minutes. To put that in perspective, Tristan Stubbs, one of the sought-after T20 players in the world, alone spent 224 minutes at the crease.

Simon Harmer (6/37), who ended the series with 17 wickets to be adjudged Player of the Series, became the latest journeyman spinner to torment Indian batters and expose their Test batting chinks like few in the past.

Resuming their innings, India put up pockets of resistance but there were no long, sustained partnerships that could have pushed them towards twilight that had consistently shaved off almost 10 overs each on all four previous days.

Sai Sudharsan received a 'life' when Marco Jansen overstepped while Aiden Markram, who otherwise took a record nine catches for the match, reprieved Kuldeep Yadav off Harmer. But the off-spinner wasn't going to be denied for too long. He had Kuldeep's middle stump knocked off with an arm-ball.

Harmer made it two in the same over with a similar delivery only this time to a right-hander. The arm ball from over the wicket going along the angle and taking an edge off a forward-pressing Dhruv Jurel. Rishabh Pant got out cheaply once again, but the only mitigating factor was he didn't go for an extravagant shot.

With win out of the equation, India needed to bat time but that didn't mean you defended every ball on a surface where you could receive a ball with your name on it anytime. A sweep here, a reverse sweep there or an aerial shot by reaching the pitch of the ball could have forced South African spinners to bowl more defensive lines and lengths.

This one-dimensional approach, however, allowed them, especially Harmer, to bowl the lengths they wanted. On pitches that throw up surprises every now and then and with so much time left in the day, sometimes, a little bit of aggression can be an ideal mode of defence. Jadeja showed the way with this approach but the rest of the batters didn't measure up to the task.

Simon Harmer

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma (centre) lifts the trophy while his team-mates celebrate after defeating India 2-0 in the Test series that concluded in Guwahati on Wednesday. PTI

> Shukri is close to 60 years old. He's got a wealth of experience behind him. He's got a lot of years. And I think he will, at some point, have an opportunity to speak to those comments. I think from a team's perspective, look, we understand the magnitude of the series. We understand the intensity of the series.
>
> **Temba Bavuma** on coach Shukri Conrad's grovel remark

> I just wanted to be able to turn around and say that I left no stone unturned and I tried as much as I could. Never in a million years did I think that I would have another shot at international cricket, never in a million years did I think that I would come to India again. So to be here, to win 2-0 to be man of the series... It's pretty special and quite surreal.
>
> **Simon Harmer** after PoS performance

Indian Test cricket in a major crisis

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Let's not be economical with the truth: Indian Test cricket is in a major crisis. After suffering a clean sweep (3-0) against New Zealand last year, the Indian team met the same fate against South Africa following their 408-run loss in the second Test here at the ACA Stadium on Wednesday. Three of those five defeats at home across two series have come on rank turners, one on a seaming wicket in Bengaluru and the latest on a surface which one of their bowlers termed the "road" and another a "good wicket" to bat.

What used to be a rare occurrence of struggle on crumbling tracks has become far too common. Much as the team may stress on the depth and quality in the change room, the results tell a different story. It's not an overnight development though. Signs have been there -- be it Pune 2017 (vs Australia) or Indore 2023 (vs Australia) -- but those issues were left unaddressed as aberrations.

Head Coach Gautam Gambhir identified renewed focus on Test cricket as an immediate necessity to arrest the declining standards. The question is how do you achieve that goal?

After another Test series humbling at home, the BCCI really needs to introspect on what is going wrong and get things back in order. PTI

For long both the authorities have been underlining the primacy of Test cricket, but no tangible step has been taken to support that claim. Merely scheduling more matches doesn't serve the purpose, you need to have an ecosystem that prepares players for the mental and technical challenges that Test cricket demands.

India has one of the robust first-class cricket structures and several world-class players have emerged from this system. But can we say the current system is still producing the same calibre of players? From the types of pitches to the lack of availability of big-ticket players, not necessarily superstars, has been an issue. The Board of Control for Cricket in India recently passed a diktat directing the internationals to play in domestic cricket, but how effectively has it been implemented?

Besides the tactical confusion over the kinds of pitches -- from wanting to prepare seaming surfaces to preparing batters to counter SENA pitches to returning to their traditional strength of spin tracks -- the standard of spinners in domestic cricket has negatively impacted batters' ability against quality spin. The white-ball mindset of both the captains and the bowlers are to be blamed for this. Spinners are mostly used as a defensive option in order to contain runs which requires them to bowl flat and fast to restrict scoring.

This practice affects the skills of both sets of players. While spinners lose wicket-taking skills, batters lose the ability to survive quality turn. The two Tests against South Africa exposed this reality in detail.

Another major concern has been the international calendar that is drawn with little application of mind. Indian cricketers have little turnaround time between multiple series and many of them find little time to work on their technical shortcomings.

"Obviously, scheduling does make a difference," Gambhir answered. "Imagine, three days before the start of the first Test match (vs South Africa in Kolkata) we were in Australia. And suddenly you come back from there and you have to join a Test team and you have got two days to plan with the Test side. But that again is not an excuse."

India embark on white-ball cricket, starting with three ODIs against South Africa from November 30, and their next Test series is scheduled only in August next year in Sri Lanka and later in the year in New Zealand. But the defeat to South Africa should serve as a wake-up call and prompt the powers that be to take up measures that help India regain its status as a powerhouse in Test cricket.

India slip to 5th

India's chances of reaching the World Test Championship finals (WTC) took a major hit as they slipped to the fifth spot in standings following their embarrassing 0-2 series whitewash to South Africa at home, reports PTI from New Delhi.

India slipped below Pakistan and are now at the fifth place with their PCT (percentage) dropping to 48.15.

India have played nine Test matches in the current WTC cycle, winning four, losing four, and drawing one game.

SCORE BOARD

SOUTH AFRICA (I Innings): 489
INDIA (I Innings): 201
SOUTH AFRICA (II Innings): 260/5 decl
INDIA (II Innings; O/n: 27/2):
Jaiswal c Verreynne b Jansen 13 (19b, 1x4, 1x6)
Rahul b Harmer.....6 (30b)
Sudharsan c M'ram b Muthusamy.14 (139b, 1x4)
Kuldeep b Harmer 5 (38b, 1x4)
Jurel c Markram b Harmer.....2 (3b)
Pant c Markram b Harmer.....13 (16b, 1x4, 1x6)
Jadeja st Verreynne b Maharaj 54 (87b, 4x4, 2x6)
Washington c M'kram b Harmer 16 (44b, 2x4)
Nitish c Verreynne b Harmer 0 (3b)
Bumrah (not out).....1 (2b)
Siraj c Jansen b Maharaj.....0 (4b)
Extras (B-5, LB-9, NB-2).....16
Total (all out, 63.5 overs).....140
Fall of wickets: 1-17 (Jaiswal), 2-21 (Rahul), 3-42 (Kuldeep), 4-42 (Jurel), 5-58 (Pant), 6-95 (Sudharsan), 7-130 (Washington), 8-138 (Washington), 9-140 (Jadeja).
Bowling: Jansen 15-7-23-1 (nb-1), Mulder 4-1-6-0 (nb-1), Harmer 23-6-37-6, Maharaj 12.5-1-37-2, Markram 2-0-2-0, Muthusamy 7-1-21-1.
Result & series: South Africa won by 408 runs and clinched the two-Test series 2-0. **PoM:** Marco Jansen; **PoS:** Simon Harmer.

It's up to BCCI to decide my future, says defiant coach Gambhir

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

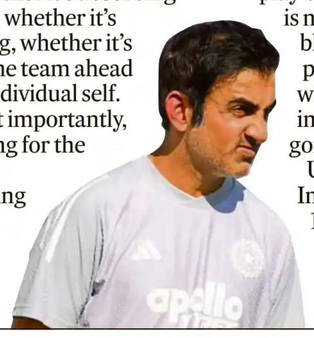
India's embattled head coach Gautam Gambhir **(in pic)** said on Wednesday that the Board of Control for Cricket in India would have the final say on his future following the Test series whitewash against South Africa. He also pointed out the achievements the team has enjoyed during his time in charge.

Gambhir addressed the media after India suffered a crushing 408-run defeat to South Africa in the second Test, a result that handed the visitors a 2-0 clean sweep.

"It is up to the BCCI to decide my future. But I am the same guy who got you results in England and was coach for Champions Trophy," Gambhir remarked at the post-match press conference, referring to India's title-winning Champions Trophy campaign and their hard-fought 2-2 draw in England earlier this year.

Gambhir also remarked one should not "play to the gallery", but it wasn't clear who it was directed against.

"If we are really serious about being the top Test team in the world, I think we cannot put things under the carpet," he noted when asked what needs to be done to improve Test performances. "Because the reality is, we still need to improve a lot in red-ball cricket. Whether it's mentally, whether it's technically, whether it's absorbing pressure, whether it's sacrificing, whether it's putting the team ahead of your individual self. And most importantly, not playing for the gallery."



Asserting that the blame starts with him, Gambhir said: "We need to play better. From 95/1 to 122/7 is not acceptable. You don't blame any individual or any particular shot. Blame lies with everyone. I never blamed individuals and won't do it going forward," he continued.

Under Gambhir's watch, India have now lost 10 of their 18 Tests, including consecutive whitewash defeats at home to New Zealand last year and now South Africa.

The loss in Guwahati also stands as India's heaviest defeat by runs in the history of Test cricket.

Gambhir has recently faced criticism for constant team changes and prioritising all-rounders over specialist players in the longest format.

"You don't need the most flamboyant and talented cricketers to play Test cricket. What we need is tough characters with limited skills. They make good Test cricketers," he said.

Karnataka's Pravin Dubey (in pic) scored 38 not out in a match-winning 70-run stand with Shubhang Hegde against Uttarakhand in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Dubey, Hegde seal thrilling win for Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka opened their Elite Group D campaign at the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with a thrilling last-over win against Uttarakhand at the Narendra Modi Stadium Ground B in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Chasing 198, they needed 38 off the final three overs but Pravin Dubey (38 not out off 24 balls) and Shubhang Hegde (29 n.o. off 18) held their nerve, taking 14 off Akash Madhwal's last over to seal a memorable victory. The lower middle-order duo posted an unbeaten 70-run stand (40 balls) for the sixth wicket.

Karnataka's chase was anchored earlier by Smaran R, who top-scored with a fluent 67 runs off 41 balls, while captain and opener Mayank Agarwal added a brisk 29 off 21. With the ball, Uttarakhand's Rajan stood out, picking 3 for 24 to keep the game alive until the end.

Earlier, Uttarakhand's innings was powered by captain Kunal Chandela's explosive 88 off just 49, a knock that featured seven fours and five sixes. He was supported by Aanjaneya Suryavanshi, whose 54 off 36 balls kept the scoreboard moving during the middle overs. The pair's 122-run stand formed the backbone of Uttarakhand's total of 197 for 5. Karnataka's Vidwath Kaverappa was the pick of their bowlers, striking early and finishing with 3 for 37, while V Vyshak chipped in with a crucial wicket to break the key stand.

Karnataka's reply began shakily at 15 for 2, but Smaran's controlled aggression steadied the innings. Even after his dismissal at 128 for 5, the chase seemed to drift away before Dubey and Hegde stitched together a composed, unbeaten stand. Dubey and Hegde ensured Karnataka stayed in touch with the rate, rotating strike smartly before launching their assault in the final overs.

Brief scores: Uttarakhand: 197/5 in 20 overs (Aanjaneya Suryavanshi 54, Kunal Chandela 88, Shashwat Dangwal 27 n.o.; Vidwath Kaverappa 3-37) lt to Karnataka: 198/5 in 20 overs (Mayank Agarawal 29, Smaran R 67, Shubhang Hegde 29 n.o., Pravin Dubey 38 n.o.; Rajan 3-24, Himanshu Bisht 2-43). **Points:** Karnataka: 4; Uttarakhand: 0.

Other Group D Matches: Tamil Nadu: 169/8 in 20 overs (N Jagadeesan 29, R Sonu Yadav 43 n.o.; Manav Suthar 2-22, Ashok Sharma 3-40) lt to Rajasthan 170/4 in 16.3 overs (Shubham Garhwal 32, Deepak Jagbir Hooda 76, Kartik Sharma 35; T Natarajan 2-16). **Points:** Rajasthan: 4, Tamil Nadu: 0.

Tripura: 123 all out in 19.3 overs (Hanuma Vihari 31, Manisankar Murasingh 56; Jaydev Unadkat 3-19, Chetan Sakariya 2-25, Chirag Jani 3-19, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 2-21) lt to Saurashtra: 124/6 in 20 overs (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 28, Ruchit Ahir 29 n.o.; Swapnil Singh 2-12, Saurabh Das 2-23). **Points:** Saurashtra: 4, Tripura: 0.

India edge past Malaysia

IPOH (MALAYSIA), PTI: The Indian men's hockey team eked out a narrow 4-3 victory against hosts Malaysia at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup here on Wednesday.

Selvam Karthi (7th), Sukhjeet Singh (21st), Amit Rohidas **(in pic)** (39th) and Sanjay (53rd) scored for India, while Faizal Saari (13th), Fitri Saari (36th), and Marhan Jalil (45th) got on the scoresheet for the hosts Malaysia.

India started the game on the front foot, forcing the hosts back in their own half as they looked to assert themselves on the opposition. They earned their first opportunity from a penalty corner at the foot of the three-minute mark and built a sustained period of pressure that eventually paid off.

A neat move from Sukhjeet Singh set up Selvam Karthi to score a tap-in, helping India take a 1-0 lead.

From there on, they largely controlled the tempo of the game until a foul from Yashdeep Siwach resulted in a green card and a penalty corner for Malaysia. A deflection for the Indian keeper helped Faizal Saari level the score at 1-1 to end the first quarter.

Surender's ward wins main event

MYSURU RESULTS

GT Surender-trained Absolutechallenger, ridden by Sai Kiran, won the Dr MN Doreswamy Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the Mysore races on Wednesday.

1. Gonikoppa Plate - 1200M: Sarvottam (Ankit Pal) 1; David's Delight (Sachin) 2; Gentleman's Word (Shyam Kumar) 3; Knotty Methods (Gautam Raj) 4; WB: Nk, 4-1/4L, Lnk; T: 1:14.60; TB: Mansoor Khan; Fav: David's Delight.

2. Pandavapura Plate - 1400M: Natural Queen (Ankit Pal) 1; Pette's Choice (Antony Raj) 2; Brocston (Siddaraju) 3; Basic Instinct (Shyam Kumar) 4; NR: D Admiral. WB: 2-1/2, 1-1/2, 1-1/2L; T: 1:27.41; TB: Mansoor Khan; Fav: Pette's Choice.

3. Treasure's Nest Plate - 1100M: Arikattu (Farid Ansari) 1; The Grey Geranium (Afsar Khan) 2; Indian Glory (Sachin) 3; SD Queen (Sai Kiran) 4; WB: 3-1/2, 2-3/4L, Shd; 1:07.37; TB: Mandanna.; Fav: Maybury.

4. Kakanakote Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Ultimate Blues (Anish Hangal) 1; Theia (Anil Baandal) 2; Sapient (Alex Rozario) 3; Swaghatham(Sai Kiran) 4; WB: 1-3/4, 1/2, 1-1/2L; T: 1:26.92; TB: GT Surender; Fav: Sapient.

5. Dr MN Doreswamy Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Absolutechallenger (Sai Kiran) 1; Winter Agenda (Antony Raj) 2; The Flying Feet (Afsar Khan) 3; Grizzly (Shyam Kumar) 4; NR: Ocean & Magic Circle; WB: 1, 1/2, 3/4L; T: 1:12.89; TB: GT Surender; Fav: Winter Agenda.

6. Manasagangotri Plate - 1600M: Tigerking (Sai Kiran) 1; Devate (Antony Raj) 2; Sandal King (Prabhakaran) 3; Natural Speed (Sachin) 4; NR: Gajobo Grande; WB: 6-3/4, 6-1/2, 1L; T: 1:38.36; TB: Vishal Yadav; Fav: Tigerking.

7. Kakanakote Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Sherouk (Alex Rozario) 1; Brave Trooper (AR Pradeep) 2; One Diamond (RN Darshan) 3; Time For Victory (Koshi Kumar) 4; NR: Square Cut; WB: 2-1/4, Shd, 1/2L; T: 1:27.67; TB: JS Pillay; Fav: Sherouk.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 48w; 15, 16, 14p; Fc: Rs 181; Q: Rs 105; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 549 & 208; Ex: Rs 5,993 & 5,137.

II race: Rs 33w; 10, 13, 21p; Fc: Rs 58; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 49; Tri: Rs 291 & 283; Ex: Rs 1.033 & 336.

III race: Rs 70w; 19, 19, 15p; Fc: Rs 1,720; Q: Rs 744; Shp: Rs 56; Thp: Rs 54; Tri: Rs 6,399 & 2,285; Ex: Rs 45,746 (c/o).

IV race: Rs 51w; 14, 22, 11p; Fc: Rs 1,849; Q: Rs 643; Shp: Rs 89; Thp: Rs 68; Tri: Rs 1,106 & 282 Ex: Rs 15,263 & 9,158.

V race: Rs 52w; 13, 10, 24p; Fc: Rs 103; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 494 & 262; Ex: Rs 1,139 & 837.

VI race: Rs 15w; 10, 20, 13p; Fc: Rs 64; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 146 & 37; Ex: Rs 1,080 & 571.

VII race: Rs 18w; 10, 12, 16p; Fc: Rs 45; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 162 & 74; Ex: Rs 1,459 & 1,251.

Jackpot: Rs 10,323 (28). **Runner-up:** Rs 3,441 (36). **I treble:** Rs 2,402 (28). **II treble:** 256 (315).

Credence for main event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

The top-weighted Credence, from the stables of Shazaan Shah, is fancied to win the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Trophy, the feature event of the opening day of the Mumbai races run over a sprint at the races on Thursday. The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Welcome Trophy - 1200M: Social Butterfly 1, Lion King 2, Absolute Gorgeous 3.

2. KJK Irani Plate - 1600M: Fynbos 1, Giacomo 2.

3. Kiara Plate - 1400M: Neptune 1, Treat 2, Kings Gambit 3.

4. PB Avasia Plate - 1600M: Namiri 1, Little John 2, Machiavellian 3.

5. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Trophy - 1200M: Credence 1, It's My Time 2, Divine Star 3.

6. MD Petit Plate - 1000M: Maratha Admiral 1, Applause 2, We Still Believe 3.

Day's best: Fynbos.

Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 3, 4 & 5.

Karnataka post consecutive victories

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka wrapped up a confident final day win over Himachal Pradesh, completing the 148-run chase with seven wickets in hand at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

Resuming the day at 98/3, the hosts encountered no real trouble as Siddharth Akhil and skipper Manikanth Shivanand kept the innings steady. Both batters finished with identical 32 n.o., adding a composed unbeaten stand that shut the door on any Himachal hopes.

Earlier, Aadesh Urs's 40 and Dhruv Krishnan's 26 had set up the reply after Rathan BR's four-wicket burst restricted the visitors to 182. This was Karnataka's back-to-back win in the elite Group D, and they remain atop with 12 points, ahead of second-placed Maharashtra.

Brief scores: Himachal: 162 all out & 182 all out lt to Karnataka: 197 all out & 148/3 (Aadesh Urs 40, Dhruv Krishnan 26, Siddharth Akhil 32 n.o., Manikanth Shivanand 32 n.o.; Lakshya Thakur 2-53).

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

Europa League: AS Roma vs Midtjylland, Aston Villa vs Young Boys Lille vs GNK Dinamo **(all 11:15 am)**, Nottingham Forest vs Malmo, Rangers vs Braga, Real Betis vs Utrecht. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

HOCKEY

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: Korea vs Canada **(1:30 pm)**, India vs New Zealand **(3:30 pm)**, Malaysia vs Belgium **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Ahmedabad to host CWG 2030

Multi-sport event returns to the country after a gap of 20 years

GLASGOW, PTI

The Indian city of Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games during Commonwealth Sport's general assembly here on Wednesday, paving the way for the multi-sport event's return to the country after two decades.

It was a mere formality for the general assembly of 74 members to put a seal of approval on India's bid after Ahmedabad was recommended as the proposed host of the centenary edition by the Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board last month. India last hosted the CWG in 2010 in Delhi.

The Executive Board's recommendation followed a process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport's Evaluation Committee.

The decision also bolstered India's ambition to be an Olympic host in 2036. Ahmedabad, the city which is in the race for Olympic hosting rights as well, has upgraded its sports infrastructure on a war footing in the last decade.

India was facing competition from the Nigerian city of Abuja for the 2030 bid. But Commonwealth Sport decided to instead consider the African nation for the 2034 edition.

For the 2010 Delhi Games, India had spent close to Rs 70,000 crore to host the 2010 edition of the Games, far exceeding the initial estimate of Rs 1600 crore. The quadrennial event has been struggling to stay relevant and find willing hosts for a while.

Disciplines such as T20 cricket, archery, badminton, hockey among others are still under consideration for the Ahmedabad CWG. PTI

"We are deeply honoured by the trust shown by Commonwealth Sport. The 2030 Games will not only celebrate a 100 years of the Commonwealth Movement but also lay the foundation for the next century," said PT Usha, President of the Commonwealth Games Association of India and the IOA. "It will bring together Athletes, communities, and cultures from across the Commonwealth in a spirit of friendship and progress," she added.

15-17 disciplines

Commonwealth Sport also confirmed that 15 to 17 sports will feature at the 2030 Games.

"The Amdavad 2030 team will work closely with Commonwealth Sport and the International Federation community to shape a dynamic and exciting sport programme with strong local resonance and global appeal," the body stated.

Athletics and para athletics, awimming and para swimming, table tennis and para table tennis, bowls and para bowls, weightlifting and para powerlifting, artistic gymnastics, netball and boxing are the confirmed disciplines.

"The process to finalise the remainder of the programme will start next month, and the full Centenary Games line-up will be announced next year.

"The sports under consideration are: archery, badminton, 3x3 basketball and 3x3 wheelchair basketball, beach volleyball, cricket T20, cycling, diving, hockey, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, triathlon and para triathlon and wrestling.

"The host can also propose up to two new or traditional sports," it added.

CRICKET WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

RCB look to bolster bowling

277 players go under the hammer in WPL mega auction

Spinner Sophie Ecclestone (left) and pacer Renuka Singh could be potential Royal Challengers Bengaluru targets at the WPL auction in New Delhi on Thursday. AFP FILE PHOTOS

LIVE 3.30 PM, STAR SPORTS & JIOHOTSTAR

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Not too long ago, India lifted the Women's ODI World Cup under a deluge of confetti in Navi Mumbai, scaling an Everest after years of heartache.

Ever since, there has been an added sentimental connection among the people and their voices have reverberated through cities across the country.

On Thursday, in the Women's Premier League (WPL) mega auction here at the national capital, the volume is expected to go up a notch, with 277 players — 194 Indian and 83 overseas — set to go under the hammer.

The headlines, for obvious reasons, will be taken by the notes that will be splurged. However, while franchises swipe their cards on a whim, the real challenge will be to spend wisely and invest in a group they believe will deliver returns on their investment.

Of significant interest will be Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who have Rs 6.15 crore and a Right to Match card, after spending Rs 8.85 crore in retaining their captain Smriti Mandhana (Rs 3.5 crore), Richa Ghosh (Rs 2.75 crore), Ellyse Perry (Rs 2 crore) and Shreyanka Patil (Rs 60 lakh).

The need for a quality bowling arsenal is expected to dictate terms and the think tank is likely to allocate a good chunk of its financial funds to overseas spinners Sophie Ecclestone or Nonkululeko Mbala. While Bengaluru will be keen on bringing back pacer Renuka Singh, given her recent returns, they could also turn to the likes of Lauren Bell or Kranti Gaud.

On RCB's wishlist will also be a high-profile name to partner Smriti at the top. With overseas batters such as Alyssa Healy, Meg Lanning, Laura Wolvaardt and Phoebe Litchfield all available, Bengaluru could break their bank for one of them.

It came as no surprise that the two teams with the most retentions — Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals — came from the sides that finished in the top two in the first three editions. While a few eyebrows may have been raised after Amelia Kerr's release by MI, the retentions did not leave room for debate with Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Matthews. They head into the with Rs 5.75 crore in hopes of strengthening the bench, with an eye on an Indian spinner Saika Ishaque.

On the other hand, the Capitals already look great on paper, but the million-dollar question will be in filling the enormous shoes of Meg Lanning. After releasing their captain, DC will go shopping for an opener with leadership abilities and might be interested in either Healy or Wolvaardt.

Meanwhile, UP Warriorz, having retained just Shweta Sehrawat, go into the auction with the fat cheque (Rs 14.5 crore) and four RTMs and are expected to be busy during the marquee set. Having lost their way after a batting malfunction and not much help from the bowling unit last season, they are in for a complete overhaul.

Gujarat Giants will look to take a similar route after retaining Beth Mooney and Ashleigh Gardner. With three RTMs and Rs 9 crore to spend, they will also look to snag a few from the marquee list.

While a few will go back to working harder when their name falls into the unsold category, this one promises to change the lives of every dreamer glued to their screens, again.

daCunha/AB/1069

Chelsea slay Barca; Man City falter

PARIS, AFP

Chelsea romped to a dominant 3-0 win at home to 10-man Barcelona in the Champions League on Tuesday while Pep Guardiola's much-changed Manchester City went down to their first defeat of the campaign against Bayer Leverkusen.

In a battle between the second-placed sides in the Premier League and La Liga, Chelsea emerged emphatic winners thanks to goals from 18-year-old Estevao and Liam Delap after a Jules Kounde own-goal had given the 2021 Champions League winners a first-half lead.

The visitors played just over half the encounter a player down following captain Ronald Araujo's dismissal for two bookable offences on the stroke of half-time.

After stalling last time out -- Chelsea being held 2-2 by Qarabag and Barca drawing three-apiece with Club Brugge -- both sides came into the match at Stamford Bridge looking to get their campaigns back on track. Victory propelled Chelsea to fifth in the league phase standings on 10 points.

Pep takes blame

Guardiola surprisingly rested the majority of his stars at the Etihad, with Erling Haaland, Ruben Dias, Bernardo Silva and Gianluigi Donnarumma all left out of the starting line-up as Man City went down 2-0 to Leverkusen.

A first loss of the campaign for Man City, coming hot on the heels of Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Newcastle in the Premier League, leaves the 2023 winners on 10 points.

"I take full responsibility, still I think the players that started were exceptional players but we missed something needed at the highest level," Guardiola said. "I think playing every two or three days we need to make changes but seeing the result, maybe it's too much."

Dortmund win 4-0

Serhou Guirassy netted a brace as Borussia Dortmund moved up to fourth with a 4-0 victory over 10-man Villarreal, despite the Germans missing two penalties at the Westfalenstadion. Serie A champions Napoli beat Qarabag 2-0 at home, while Benfica won by the same scoreline at Ajax.

Union Saint-Gilloise of Belgium won 1-0 away to Galatasaray and Athletic Bilbao played out a goalless stalemate at Slavia Prague.

Results: Chelsea: 3 (Kounde 27th og, Estevao 55th, Delap 73rd) bt Barcelona: 0; Manchester City: 0 lt to Bayer Leverkusen: 2 (Grimaldo 23rd, Schick 54th); Ajax: 0 lt to Benfica: 2 (Dahl 6th, Barreiro 90th); Galatasaray: 0 lt to Union Saint-Gilloise: 1 (David 57th); Bodo/Glimt: 2 (Blomberg 27th, Fet 87th P) lt to Juventus: 3 (Openda 48th, McKennie 59th, David 90+1st); Borussia Dortmund: 4 (Guirassy 45+2nd, 54th, Adeyemi 58th, Svensson 90+5th) bt Villarreal: 0; Marseille: 2 (Aubameyang 46th, 50th) bt Newcastle: 1 (Barnes 6th); Napoli: 2 (McTominay 65th, Jankovic 72nd) bt Qarabag: 0; Slavia Prague: 0 drew with Athletic Bilbao: 0.

Chelsea's Estevao (left) scores their second goal against Barcelona in their 3-0 victory at Stamford Bridge in London on Tuesday night. AFP

Hitashree, Aryan continue gold surge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre swimmers continued to impress on day 4 of the State Short Course Swimming Championships Hitashree N and Aryan Patil, in the under-17 category, shone the brightest with gold medals in their respective events.

LOCAL SWIMMING

The 15-year-old Hitashree, who won a gold medal on day 3 as well, won the girls' Group I 400m individual medley with a timing of 5:32.65 seconds. Meanwhile, Aryan (17 years) won the boys' Group I 50m butterfly event as he clocked 26.18 seconds.

The youngster also grabbed a team silver medal in the 4x50m freestyle relay as Aryan teamed up with Adrith Segu, Amogh Maddanimath and Nishanth J to clock 1:41.69 behind Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre A (1:38.95).

BAC's Vishagan Saravanan won gold in the boys' Group I 50m breaststroke at the State Short Course Swimming Championships on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Results (winners only unless mentioned): Boys: Senior: 50m butterfly: Dhanvith (Mangala) 29.51. **50m breaststroke:** Pragun Dev (Dolphin Aquatics) 33.90. **Group I (U-17): 400m individual medley:** Surya JT (BAC) 4:40.67. **200m breaststroke:** Saiesh Kini (Global Swim) 2:27.26. **25m freestyle:** Swaroop Dhanuche (BAC) 11.55. **50m butterfly:** Aryan Patil (NAC) 26.18. **50m breaststroke:** Vishagan (BAC) 30.57. **4x50m freestyle relay:** BAC A (1:38.95), 1; NAC (Aryan Patil, Adrith Segu, Amogh Maddanimath, Nishanth J) 1:41.69, 2. **Group II (U-14): 200m breaststroke:** Siddhanth Singh (BAC) 2:38.28. **50m butterfly:** S Krish (BAC) 28.07. **400m individual medley:** Aarav J (BAC) 4:56.62. **50m breaststroke:** Siddhanth Singh (BAC) 32.74. **50m freestyle relay:** (BAC A) 1:47.12. **Group III (U-12): 200m individual medley:** Lohitashwa Nagesh (Lakshyan Academy) 2:35.87. **200m breaststroke:** Gagana CM (KSA-B) 2:51.32. **50m butterfly relay trail:** Ruthva S (Dolphin Aquatics) 31.50. **25m freestyle:** Chiranth M (Ray Centre) 13.45. **50m breaststroke relay trail:** Tanush Murthy (BAC) 36.80. **4x25m freestyle relay:** BAC A 54.75. **Girls: Senior: 50m butterfly:** Sahana Nandakumar (Golden Fins) 31.98. **50m breaststroke:** Zara Iva Williams (Matsya Inc.) 39.42. **Group I: 400m individual medley:** Hitashree N (NAC) 5:32.65. **200m freestyle:** Mihika Dutta (Dolphin Aquatics) 13.52. **50m butterfly:** Tisya Sonar (BAC) 30.32, 1; Akanksha Tagadur (NAC) 32.14, 3. **50m breaststroke:** Lipika Dev (Soundarya) 36.15. **Group II: 200m breaststroke:** Siri Preetham (Ekalavya) 2:53.61. **50m butterfly:** Manya R Wadhwa (Dolphin Aquatics) 30.43. **400m individual medley:** Venyashree P (DKV) 5:40.67. **50m breaststroke:** Kiarah Huidrom (BAC) 35.38. **200m backstroke:** S Krish(BAC) 2:17.73, 1; Advait Dalvi (NAC) 2:23.75, 2. **200m backstroke:** Avhni Belliappa (DKV) 2:31.32. **Group III: 200m individual medley:** Vidula R (NAC) 2:39.57, 1; Nayana Madhyastha (NAC) 2:44.53, 3. **50m butterfly relay trail:** Aaradhya Achar (Mangala) 33.59, 1; Nayana Madhyastha 12 (NAC) 34.29, 3. **25m freestyle:** Shreya S Pujar (Bengaluru Swimming) 13.73. **50m breaststroke relay trail:** Drithi Abhilash (BAC) 37.58.

Unnati, Rahul, Kidambi clear the first hurdle

LUCKNOW, PTI: Top seed Unnati Hooda **(in pic)**, former champion Kidambi Srikanth and Bengaluru's BM Rahul Bharadwaj notched up comfortable wins to lead a host of Indians into the second round of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday.

While Hooda overcame compatriot Aakarshi Kashyap 21-13, 21-18, Srikanth, who had reached the finals at Malaysia Masters early this year, produced a fluent performance to defeat Kavin Thangam 21-13, 21-10 at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium. Bharadwaj defeated Tarun Reddy Katam 18-21, 21-16 23-21 in an all-Indian clash to set up second round clash against Priyanshu Rajawat, who defeated compatriot Meiraba Maisnam 21-18, 21-14.

Among other key results, seventh seed Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj opened her women's singles challenge with a confident 21-12, 21-14 win over Shreya Lele. Kiran George also advanced in the men's singles section, beating Israel's Daniil Dubovenko 21-17, 21-9, and will face Jason Gunawan of Hong Kong next.

Among other Indians, Alap Mishra, Siddhanth Gupta, progressed to the men's singles second round, while Devika Sihag, Mansi Singh, Isharani Baruah, Tanya Hemanth and Anupama too also advanced.

In men's singles, top seed Teh of Singapore got past India's Rithvik Sanjeevi 21-19, 21-17.

SWR women post twin wins

BENGALURU, DHNS: South Western Railway women scored facile wins DYES Vidya Nagar and JSC in the quarterfinal league matches in the State Association Cup Championship at Sree Kanteerava Stadium courts on Wednesday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results: Men: Pre-quarterfinals: DYES Bangalore: 93 (Manoj 20, Kushal 11) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 55 (Vyas 11); Bank of Baroda: 76 (Arvind 10) bt Sahakarnagar BC: 41 (Rocky 20); Southern Blues: 78 (Rohan 15, Dencil 14) bt JSC: 59 (Satya 20, Katti 12); MNK Rao Park BC: 70 (Ajin 30, Faaz 15) bt Devanga Union: 62 (Rohan Sangal 25); Young Orion's SC: 100 (Sumanth 23, Shashank 19) bt Chikkamagalur District: 65 (Rishab 15, Rehan khan 13); Vivek's SC: 74 (Nitin 25, Sanjay 21) bt Hoop 7 BC: 54 (Samarth 20, Ranveer 11); Beagles BC: 77 (Ravi 20, Pratham 14) bt BCYA: 74 (Afride 24, Rohith 18); GST & Customs: 80 (Samyam 26, Joshua 16) bt Rajmahal BC: 62 (Anand 26, Shishir 15). **Women:** Quarterfinal league: South Western Railway: 69 (Sruthi 13, Sobhana 10) bt DYES Vidya Nagar: 31 (Sheetal 8); Rajmahal BC: 49 (Shreya 19, Aishwarya 15) bt Mysore District A: 30 (Shreya 10); Beagles BC: 39 (Swathi 12, Sanjana Ramesh 11) bt Southern Blues: 16 (Sanjana 8); Mounts Club: 54 (Nidhi 19) bt JSC: 52 (Sanjana 13); South Western Railway: 70 (Shruthi A 20, Bhandavya 15) bt JSC: 36 (Sanjana 10, Sharleen 10); Mounts Club: 43 (Nidhi 12, Nilaaya 11) bt DYES Vidya Nagar: 39 (Deepika 16, Ishitha 12); Beagles BC: 51 (Sanjana N Kumar 16) bt Mysore District: 31 (Apoorva 10); Rajmahal BC: 50 (Aadya 25, Nikitha 12) bt S Blues: 37 (Anvitha 9).

Uzbek teen Sindarov has a party to remember in Goa!

MANISHA MOHITE

The 19-year-old Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan won the FIDE World Cup (which incidentally is named as the Viswanathan Anand Cup) after he beat Wei Yei of China with a 1.5-0.5 win in the final tie-break.

Sindarov also entered the history books as the youngest ever to win and earned USD 120,000, his highest-ever prize money. Chess just keeps getting younger and most prodigies have started making their mark at the highest level of the game. Dommaraju Gukesh had won the World Championship as an 18-year-old last year and this year 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh won the Women's World Cup.

Sindarov, Yi and Andrey Esipenkoy finished in the respective order in this edition of the World Cup and have qualified to make their debut in the eight-player elite Candidates, where the winner will challenge Gukesh for the World title. The Candidates is scheduled at Cyprus next March. There were 24 Indians in fray in this 206-player event but sadly none of them could qualify. Praggnanandhaa is almost assured of qualification courtesy his leader status in the FIDE circuit as of now.

This edition of the World Cup was one where ratings and reputations tumbled to be knocked out. None of the top 15 players managed to win the event.

Results: 1st Final Tie-break: Javokhir Sindarov (UZB) bt Wei Yi (CHN) 1.5.5-0.5.

Chess World Cup winner Javokhir Sindarov (right) and runner-up Wei Yei pose with their spoils. FIDE

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